

ANDRONICVS,
OR,
The Vnfortunate
POLITICIAN.

Shewing, { Sin ; slowly punished.
 { Right ; surely rescued.

ECCLES. 8. II.

*Because sentence against an ill worke is
not executed speedily, therefore the
heart of the Sons of men is fully set in
them to doe evill.*

The Second Edition.

BY THO. FULLER. B.D.

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at the Crowne in St. Pauls Church-
yard. 1646.

ANNO DOMINI

18

THE VICTORIA

NOTICE

By the Hon. Secy.

of the Colonies

in Council


Resolved that the

Commissioners of the





To the Reader.

 E read of King * A H A- *Heft. 2.6.
S H U E R O S H, that
having his head troubled
with much businesse, & finding
himselfe so indisposed, that hee
could not sleep, hee caused the
Records to be called for, & read
unto him; hoping thereby to de-
ceive the tediousnesse of the
time, (an honest fraud) and that
the pleasant passages in the *Chro-
nicles* would either invite slum-
ber unto him, or enable him to
endure waking with lesse mole-
station.

We live in a troublesome and
tumultuous age; and hee needs

To the Reader.

to have a very soft bed, who can sleep soundly now a-dayes, amidst so much loud noise, and many impetuous clamours. Wherefore it seemeth to mee, both a safe and cheap Receipt, to procure Quiet and Repose to the minde which complains for want of rest, to prescribe unto it the reading of History.

Great is the pleasure and profit thereof. **Zaccheus*, wee know, was low and little in stature, but when he had borrowed some height from the Fig-Tree, into which he climbed, the Dwarf was made a Gyant on a suddain; last minute beneath the Armes, but now grown above the heads of other men. Thus our experimentall knowledge is in it selfe, both short and narrow, as which cannot exceed *the spanne of our owne life*. But when wee are mounted on the Advantage of Hi-

To the Reader.

History, we can, not onely reach the yeere of Christs incarnation, but, even touch the top of the worlds beginning, and at one view over-see all remarkeable accidents of former ages.

Wherefore, untill such time, as I shall by Gods providence, and the Authority of my Superiours, bee restored to the open Exercise of my profession, on termes consisting with my Conscience, (which welcome Minute, I do heartily wish, and humbly wait for, and will greedily listen to the least whisper sounding there unto) it is my intent (God willing) to spend the remnant of my dayes in reading and writing such Stories as my weak judgement shall commend unto me for most beneficiall.

Our English Writers tell us of *David King of the Scots*, that

To the Reader.

whilst he was Prisoner in a Cave in Nottingham Castle, he, with his Nailes, shall I say carved, (or) scratched out the whole History of our Saviours Passion in the Wall. And although the Figures be rough and rude, yet in one respect they are to bee compared unto, yea, preferred before the choysest Pieces, and most exact Platformes of all Engravers, being done at such disadvantages; cut out of a maine Rock, without any light to direct him, or Instruments to helpe him, besides his bare hands.

The Application of the Story serves mee for manifold uses. First, here I learn, if that Princes, then meaner Persons, are bound to finde themselves some honest employment. Secondly, that in a sad and solitary condition, a Calling is a comfortable Companion. Thirdly, where men
want

To the Reader.

want Necessaries, fit Tooles and Materialls, the worke that they doe, (if it be any degree passable,) deserves, if not to bee praised, to bee pardoned. Which encourageth me to expect of the charitable Reader, favour for the faults in this Tract committed, when he considers the Author in effect banished, & Booklesse, and wanting severall accommodations requisite to the compleating an History.

Noah, to make an *Essay* *, whether the *waters were abated from the face of the earth*, before hee would adventure to expose the whole Fraught of his Arke to danger, dispatch'd a Dove to make discovery, and report unto him the condition of the World, intending to order himselfe accordingly. A deep Deluge hath lately over-flowed the whole Kingdome, to the drow-
A 4 ning

To the Reader.

ning of many, and dangering of all. I send forth this small Treatise, to try whether the swelling surges, and boyling billowes in mens breasts, (flowing from the distance in their judgments, and difference in their affection) begin now to assuage, and whether there be a dry place for this my innocent Dove, safely to settle her selfe. If thee finde any tolerable entertainment, or indifferent Approbation abroad, it will give mee encouragement to adventure a Volumnie of a more usefull Subject, and greater concernment in the view of the world.

*Thive in all Christian
offices.*

THO. FULLER.

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ANDRO-	




ANDRONICUS

OR

The Vnfortunate

POLITITIAN.

The first Booke.

- I.  Lexius Comnenus, on- *An. Dom.*
ly Son of Manuel Com- 1179.
nenus, succeeded his

Father in the Empire of *Constantinople*. A child hee was in Age and Judgment : of wit, too short to measure an honourable sport, but lost himselfe in low delights. He hated a booke, more then a monster did a looking glasse, and when his Tutor endeavored to play him into Scollership, by presenting pleasant Authors unto him, hee returned,
B that

that learning was beneath the Greatnesse of a Prince, who, if wanting it, might borrow it from his subjects, being better stor'd; for (saith hee) if they will not lend mee their braines, I'll take away their heads. Yea he allowed no other librarie, then a full stor'd Cellar, resembling the Buts to Folioes, Barrells to Quartoes, smaller Runlets, to lesse Volumes, & studied away his time, with base Company, in such debauchednesse.

2. Leave wee *Alexius* drowning his Care, or rather carelesnesse in wine, to behold *Zene* his mother the Regent Empresse, Surfeting also in pleasure with her husband *Proto-Sebastus*, who had married her, since the de cease of *Manuell* her late husband. This *Proto-Sebastus* a better Stallion, then warre-horse, was a perfect Epicure, (so that *Apitius*, in comparison of him,

was a Churle to starve himselfe,) 1179.
better at his palat, then his
tongue, yet better at his tongue,
then his Armes, being a notori-
ous Coward. He with the Em-
presse, conspired to the dissolute
education of young *Alexius*,
keeping him in constant igno-
rance of himselfe, their strength
consisting in his weaknesse, who,
had he been bred to understand
his owne power, might probably
have curb'd their exorbitances.

3. The Body of the Grecian
State, at this time, must needs be
stragely distempered, under such
heads. Preferment was only scat-
tered amongst Parasites, for them
to scramble for it. The Court had
as many Factions, as Lords, save
that all their divisions united
themselves in a generall vitious-
nesse; and that *Theodorus* the
Patriarch, was scoffed at by all
as an Antick for using Good-
nesse, when it was out of fashion

1179.

and was adjudged impudent, for presuming to bee pious alone by himselfe.

4. As for the City of Constantinople, the chief seat of the Grecian Empire; shee had enjoyed happinelle so long, that now she pleaded *Prescription* for prosperity. Because living in *Peace Time out of mind*, she conceived it, rather a wrong, to have constant Quiet denied, than a favour, frō Heaven to have it continued unto her. Indeed, She was growne sick, of a surfet of health, & afterwards was broken, with having too much riches. For in steed of honest industry, & painful thrift, which first caused the greatnesse of this City: now flowing with wealth, there was nothing therein, but the swelling of Pride, the boiling of lust, the fretting of Envie, & the squeezing of Oppression. So that should their dead Auncestours arise, they would be

puz-

puzzl'd to see Constantinople for it self, except they were directed thereunto, by the Ruines of St. *Sophies* Temple. True it was some yeares since, upon a great famine, some hopes were given of a general amendment. During which time, Riot began to grow thrifty, pride to go plaine, Gluttons to fast, and wantons were sterv'd into Temperance. But forced Reformation wil last no longer, then the violent cause thereof doth continue. For soon after, when plenty was again restored, they relapsed to their former badnesse, yea afterwards became fouler for the Purge, and more wanton for the Rod, when it was Removed.

5. Now there was an Antifaction in the Grecian Empire, maintained by some Lords of ancient Extraction, who were highly offended at the great power which *Proto-Sebastus*, & *L. Xene* the Em-
B 3 presse

1179.

presse usurped to themselves; & meeting privatly together, *Andronicus Lapardas* as prolocutor for the rest, vented his discontentment. complaining, it was morethen high time, that they now awake out of the lethargy of security, into which, by fooles lullabyes, they had coufened themselves. That they in the empire, which have most at the Stake, are made only lookers on; sometimes admitted to the Counsell, out of Complement, & for Countenance barely to concurr; but for the maine kept in Ignorance of most materiall passages. That their names are all branded for death, & that no love to their persons, but feare what might follow, had hitherto 'secured their lives. In a word; that they must speedily resolve on some projects for their protection, or else they should approve themselves heirs to *Epimethens*, who is

not

not found to have left any Land unto his Sonnes, but onely to have bequeathed an uselesse sorrow unto the, for their portion.

6. Hereupon they entred into a strict Combination with themselves secretly, vowing that they would improve their utmost might to bring in *Andronicus Comnenus*, a Prince of the blood, one of great parts and abilities, (but lately banished out of the Empire) to counterpoise the power of *Proto-Sebastus*, and to free young *Alexius* from the wardship of such as abused him. We will present the Reader with a list of their Titles and offices, who were engaged in this designe; intreating him not to be offended with us, because of the hardnesse and length of their Names; but rather with their God-fathers who Christened them. We have an English Proverbe that *bones bring meat to*

1179. Town, & those who are desirous to feast themselves on the pleasant & profitable passages of Historie, must bee content some time to stoope their stomacks to feede on hard words, which bring matter along with them.

7. First, *Maria Prophyrogenita Caesarissa* daughter to *Mannel* the late Emperour, by a former wife, halfe sister to *Alexius* the young Emperour.

2. *Cæsar* her husband, an Italian Lord, who was so overtopt with the high birth, and spirit of his wife, that in this Historie we find him not grown much above the bare mention of his Name.

3. *Conto-Stephanus*, the Great Duke, Admirall of the Gallies.

4. *Camaterus Basilus* President of the City.

5. *Hagiochristophorites Stephanus*,

nus, Captaine of the Guard. 1179.

6. *Disypatus Georgius* Lecturer in the great Church, (an higher office, then the moderne acceptation of the word doth imply.)
7. *Tripsycus Constantinus* one of the most noble extractions.
8. *Macroducas Constantinus*, no whit inferiour to him in pedegree, or power.
9. *Andronicus Lapardas*, formerly mentioned, together with the aforesaid.
10. *Theodorus*, the Patriark, last named, because least interested. For in matters of piety, he was governed by his conscience, but in matters of policy, by good Company, being therein himselfe utterly unskilled : & strangers in unknowne waies commonly follow the most beaten Tract of others before

fore them. All these joyn'd in a league to bring *Andronicus* home to *Constantinople*, who, what he was, & how qualified, we will not forestall the Reader, conceiving it, though something painefull, yet more healthfull for him to gaine his Character by degrees in the Sequell of his Actions, Wherin he will sufficiently discover himselfe, without our description of him.

8. Now *Maria Caesarissa* was employed unto *Andronicus* (having ability in her selfe, and advantage by her Sex for the cunning carriage of the matter) to acquaint him with their designs She comming to *Oeneum*, where he liv'd in Banishment, informed him of the generall discontent in the Grecian Empire: And how those which basely served *Zene*, did onely command in the State.

That,

That besides those great persons, 1179.

(whose names she presented in writing) many others (as yet scrupulous Newters) would have their doubts fully satisfied, and declare on his side when they saw him appeare with a powerfull Army. That it would be a meritorious worke to enfranchise his Kinsman *Alexius* from their slavery, where under he, and the *Grecian* Empire did groane.

9. Welcom was this invitation to *Andronicus*, to be requested to do, what of himselfe he desired. How willingly doth the fire fly upwards, especially when employed to *fill up a vacuity*; because then doing 3. good Offices, with one motion; Namely, expressing its Dutifullnesse to the Dictates of Dame Nature; and contributing in case of Necessity, to the Preservation of the Universe; and pleasing its owne pecu-

peculiar Tendency, which delights in ascending: Such now the Condition of *Andronicus*, who in this undertaking, would show courteous in granting the Request of his friends, appeare pious in promoting the generall good, and withall satisfie the Appetite of his owne Ambition and Revenge. Wherefore with treasure, whereof he had plenty, he provided men and Armes, and prepared with all speed for the Expedition.

10. But he could not be more busie about his War, then *Xene* was imployed about her wantonnes, counting in life all spilt, that was not sport, who to revenge herselfe on envious death, meant in mirth to make herselfe Reparation, for the shortnesse of her life. That time, which flyeth of it selfe, she sought to drive away with unlawfull Recreations. And though Musicke did jarre, and
mirth

mirth was prophaneſſe, at this present time, wherein all did ſcele what was bad, and feare what was worſe, yet ſhe by wanton Songs (Panders to Luſt) and other provocatives, did awaken the ſleepie ſparkes of her Corruption, into a flame of open wickedneſſe.

II. But it was a great and ſudden abatement to her jollity to heare that *Andronicus*, with a puiſſant Armie, was approaching the City. *Alexius Proto-Sebaſtus*, her minion, did woe all people to make reſiſtance. But hee found abundance of Neuters, (of that luke-warmer temper) which Heaven & Hell doth hate,) who would *not out of their Houſes, but ſtay at * home and ſide with neither party*, theſe did maintain that the *publicke Good* was nothing but the reſult of many mens particular good, and therefore held, that in ſaving their

* ἢ οἶκα
μοναχῶν
δου . ἢ
μυλῶν
πρὸς δὲ
δου τοῦ
μυλῶν.

own they advanced the generall. Indeed they hop'd, though the *great vessell of the State was wrackt*, in a private fly-boat of Neutrality, to waft their owne Adventure safe to the Shore. But who ever saw dauncers on rops, so equally to poise themselves, but at last they fell downe and brake their Necks? And we will take the Boldnesse to point at these hereafter, and to shew what was their successe.

12. The best thing w^{ch} befreinded *Proto-Sebastus* (next to his owne Money) was the obliging disposition of *Zene*. She had as many *Nets as gestures* to catch affections in, and with her Smiles, did not onely presse, but pay all Carpet Knights, and amourous Persons to be of her partie. The City of *Constantinople* was thrice walled, with *wood, stones, and bones*, plenty of Shipping, artificiall Fortifications, and multitudes

tuds of men. The worst, was their ^{1179.}

Arsenall was a goodly Stable of gallant wooden Horses, but they wanted Riders to manage them, The *Grecians* (at this time) being very simple Seamen, though nature may seeme both to woe and teach them to be skilfull Mariners, by affording them plenty of safe Harbours. However the *Grecians* conceiving Navigation beneath their honour (which indeed was above their *Industry*,) resigned the benefit of Trading in their owne Seas to the *Italians* of *Pisa*, *Genoa*, *Florence*, and *Venice*, *Proto-Sebastus* hired *Mercenary* Mariners of these, and with them man'd his Ships, stopping the passages of *Propontis*, by which *Andronicus* coming from *Paphlagonia*, out of the lesser *Asia*, was to passe.

13. But now an Admirall was to be provided for his Navie: *Conto-Stephanns* the great Duke, for-

formerly mentioned, challenged the place as proper to himselfe, scorning to bee made a Stale to weare the Style in Peace, & not to execute the Office in warr, when occasion was offered to shew his valour, and serve his Countrie. What should *Pro-to-Sebastus* do? it is equally dangerous to offend, or imploy him. Yet he resolves on the latter, not willing to teach him, to bee dishonest by suspecting him, and conceiving it to bee an engagement, on a Noble Nature to be trusty, because hee was trusted. But hee no sooner received the Charge, but betrayed the Galleyes to *Andronicus*, whereby in an instant hee was made Master of all those Seas. The newes whereof being brought to the City, what riding, what running, what packing, what posting! happy hee that could trip up his Neighbours heeles, to get first
into

Into the favour of *Andronicus*, Many that stak't their wives and children at home in the city, had laid good *Betts* abroad on the opposite party.

14. *Andronicus* being easily waisted over, comes to the Gates of *Constantinople*. Here to oppose him, there was rather a skirmish then a fight, or rather a flourish then a skirmish, the land forces consisting of two Sorts. First old Souldiers, who formerly having been notorious Plunderers, had their Armes so pressed downe, with the weight of the peoples just Curses, that they could not lift up their Swords to any purpose, but having formerly preyed on their Friends, were made a prey to their Foes: Secondly, Citizens, used onely to traverse their Shops, and unacquainted with military performances. The city

1179. once entred, was instantly conquered, (whose strength was much overtam'd) such populous places, like unweildy bodies, sink with their own weight.

15. *Prosebastus* was taken Prisoner, and was kept some dayes and nights waking, being pinch'd, when once offering to shut his eyes. A torment which we meete not with to be used to so high a person, though (they say) of late in Fashion, for the discovery of Witches.

But to put him out of his paine, *Andronicus* is conceived by some, mercifull unto him, in causing his eyes to be bored out, seeing it was lesse torture not to see, then not to sleepe; So much for this great Coward, though this his *Character*, cannot bee guessed from his Demeanour herein, seeing a better Souldier might have been worsted in this
Expe-

Expedition against Forces, of open Foes, and fraud of seeming friends, it being impossible to make them fight, who are resolv'd to fly.

16. The Army thus entering the City, some outrages, they must of Course commit; but those, neither for Number or Nature, such as might have been expected: For when a place is taken by assault, the most strict *Commanders* are not able to keepe the mouthes of their Souldiers Swords fasting, but may bee commended for moderate, if they feed not to a Surfet. Besides, such was the infinite wealth of *Constantinople*; her treasures would tempt the fingers of Saints, much more of Souldiers; the *Paphlagonians*, (whereof the Army consisted,) vowed, that seeing their Swords had done so good service, they

1179. would make *hilt*s of Gold, for their *Blades* of Steele.

17. There was then inhabiting in the City of *Constantinople*, multitudes of *Frankes* (understand *French*, *Germanes*, and principally *Italians*,) so that wel might this City bee called *new Rome*, from the aboundance of *Latins* that lived therein, These first by Manufactures, and then by Merchandize, got great wealth, (their diligence being more, and Luxury lesse then the *Greeks*,) insomuch that they ingrossed all Trading to themselves. This attracted the Envie of the Natives, that Strangers should suck the Marrow of the State, alledging, that in proceſſe of time, the *Ivie* would grow to be an Oake, & those prove absolute in their own power, which, at first, were dependent for their Protection. *Andronicus* with some

something more then a bare Connivance, though lesse then a full Command, freely consigned these *Frankes* over to the Rapine of his Army.


18. Such of them as related, by former Friendship or *Alliance* to the *Grecians*, fled to them for shelter, who, instead of preserving, persecuted them, their Company being conceived Infectious, least it should bring the Plague of the Souldiers fury along with it. And who findes a faithfull friend in Misery? All their goods were spoil'd, and most of their lives spill'd, save such as formerly had escaped by flight to their ships. Thus *Andronicus* found a cheape way, both to pay his Souldiers, and please the people, who counted him an excellent *Physitian* of the State, and this a great cure done by him, in purging the superfluous,

1199. fluous, yea noxious Aliens out of the City. Indeed carefull he was to preserve the City it selfe from spoyling, as having then a squint eye at the Empire; and knowing *Constantinople*, to bee the *Seate* thereof, hee would not deface that faire *Chaire*, into which, in due time hee hop'd himselfe to sit downe.

The



The Second Booke.

I.  NDRONICUS being thus peaceably posses'd of *Constantinople*, first made his humble address to the young Emperour *Alexius*, and ceremoniously kissed his feet. The Spectators variously commented on his prodigious humility therein, Some conceiving hee meant to build high, because hee began so low; others thinking that their Toes had need beware the cramp whose feet he kissed.

An. Dom.
1180.

2. The next Stage, whereon his *Hypocrisie* acted, was the great Church it selfe, where, meeting *Theodorus* the Patriarke at the doore, hee encountred him with

transcendent Courtship, protesting, that in him, he beheld the pattern of *St. Chrysostome*, his famous Predecessour, it being questionable, whether that worthy Father, did more truly survive, in the learned Books, he left to posterity, or in the looks and life of *Theodorus*. And whilst the Patriarke was meditating a modest Reply, *Andronicus* did powre Complements, so full and fast upon him, that stifled therewith, he could breath no Answer in returne, but only fel into a swoound of amazement.

3. Hence, he advanced into the Quire, unto the monument of *Manuel* his Kinsman, and late Emperour. At sight wherof, the teares trickled downe his reverent Cheekes, as if they had run a race, which of them should be the foremost: some interpreted this, the love which *Andronicus*

nicus abre to the memory of the dead Emperour, and others feared, that as the moist dropping of stones is the fore-runner of foule weather, so this relenting of his hard heart, presaged some storme to follow after, in the State. Then coming to *Manuels* Tombe, ordering his voyce so low, as seeming hee might not bee, and yet so loud, as certaine hee was heard, what he spake, hee expressed himselfe to this effect.

4. *Deare Manuel, my loyalty stiles thee Sovereign, but my blood calls thee cosin. I wil not say it was thy fault, but my Fate, not to have my love to thee understood, according to the integrity of my intentions. My Innocence, by thee, was banished into a farre Countrey. The Burthen did not grieve mee, but the hand that laide it on; not so much to be an Exile,*

as an Exile made by thee. However, all my revenge unto thee, shall bee in advancing the honour and safety of thy sonne Alexius, to free whose Innocence, from the abuse of his friend-pretended-enemies, I have embarked my selfe, in a dangerous and desperate designe: Tea my manifold infirmities (of which I am most Conscious) grieve me not so much, in my owne behalfe, as because thereby I am rendred disable, from being serviceable to your son, in so high a degree as I desire.

5. Then sinking his voyce, past possibility of being overheard, he continued. *Base bloody hound, which chasest me from place to place. I here arrest thy drowsie Asles, it being now past thy power to breake this marble Chest. I scorne to ungrave thy dust, (wishing that all my Enemies were as Sumptuously entombed,) but thy*
Son,

Sonne, Wife, Daughter, Favou-
rites, Friends, Name, Memo-
ry, I will utterly destroy. The
Poets Phansie begat three Furies
in Hell, and I will be the fourth on
Earth.

6. Some will demand, how we
came to the knowledge of this
Speech, being so secretly delive-
red? It is answered it is impossi-
ble, some invisible Eare might
lye in ambush within the Eare-
reach of his words. Besides, let
me not be challenged for a libell,
who can produce the party from
whom I received it; and amongst
others, discharge my selfe on
one principall * Author of Ex-
cellent credit. Though I beleeve
that this Speech was never taken
from the Originall of *Androni-*
cus his mouth, but was transla-
ted from the black Coppie of his
wicked actions, which afterward
he committed.

* *Nicetas
Comites
in vita A-
lexij nu-
mero, 16.*

7. His devotions ended, hee retired to his owne house, and there lived very privately, as renouncing all worldly Pompe and Pleasure, whilst his Engi-neeres, under-hand, were very active to procure the Empire for him, which was thus contrived: A Petition was drawne, in the name of all the people, requesting *Andronicus*, that hee would bee pleased, for the good of the State, to be chosen joynt Emperour with *Alexius*. This was subscribed by the principall men in every place; and then Herds of silly Soules did the like. They never consulted with the Contents of the paper, whether it was Bond, Bill, Libell, or Petition. But thought it a sinne, not to score their marks, where they were told, their betters had gone before them. At first they wanted names for their
Parch-

Parchmēt, but afterward, Parchment for their names. Here it would be tedious to recount, what sleights and forgeries were used herein. If any delayed to subscribe, they were presently urged with great mens Presidents ; that it was Superstition, to be more holy then the Bishops : Rigour, to be more just then the Judges : Malepartnesse, to pretend to more wisdome then so many State-men , who had already signed it. And thus, many fearfull Soules were compell'd to consent, by the Tyranny of others Examples. Indeed some few there were , which durst be honest, whose Soules did stand on a Basis of their own judgements, without leaning, with implicate faith, on others. These disavowed this State-Bigamie , protesting against the Co-Empireship of *Andronicus*,
and

And boldly affirming, that Crownes take a Master if they accept a Mate. But then all their Names, were returned unto *Andronicus*, who registred them in his blacke Kallender, who, for the present, did remember, and for the future would requite them.

The principall Agent, that openly promoted this Eusinesse, was *Basilus*, a Bilhop, one that professed *Heaven*, and practised *Earth*, much meddling in Temporall matters, being both lewd and lazie in his owne profession: onely herein hee had the character of a good Churchman, that by *his preaching and living he set forth his office accordingly.*

9. And now the Scene being covertly laid, in a Solemne Assembly, on a high Festivall, this Bilhop, as the mouth of the
the

the rest, (whose names hee held in a Parchment Roll) represented to *Andronicus* the sincere intentions, and earnest wishes of the State. Most humbly requesting him, that hee would bee pleased so farre to ease the tender yeares of his deare Kinsman, young *Alexius*, as to beare halfe the burthen of the Crowne, and to accept to bee joynt-Emperour with him: Presuming, that such was the Goodnesse and Humility of *Andronicus*, that he would not disdain a part, though hee did deserve the Whole. And after a long Oration concluded. Thus anciently the Roman Senate coupled olde delaying Fabius, with over hasty Marcellus, blending Youth with Age, the swift with Slow: Wholsome mixture, when the one brought Eyes, the other Hands; the one was for Advice, the other for

for Action. And thus alone it is possible that the distempered State of the Grecian Empire at this present, can be cured with this Cordiall, and sacred Composition, of the Gravity of your Highnesse, to temper the greene yeares of Alexius.

10. Hereat *Andronicus* discovered a strangenesse in his looks, as if he had needed an Interpreter to understad the Language which was spoken unto him; and after some Pause proceeded. Let me not be censured for unmannerly in not returning my thanks, having my soule for the present possessed with an higher employment of Admiration, That so many Aged States-men, as rich in wisedome, as yeares, should bee so much mistaken in mine Abilities, as to conceive mee in any degree fit for the Moity of a Crowne. Goe chuse some Gallant, whose very flesh is Steele,

steale, can march all day, and watch all night, whose vast Atchievements may adde Honour unto your Empire. Alas! my pale face, leane Cheekes, dimme eyes, faint heart, weake leggs, speake me fit for no Crowne, but a Coffin, no Royall Robes, but a winding-sheet. Nor am I ashamed to confesse that my youth hath been exceeding vitious, wherein I spared the Devill the paines of courting me, by preferring my selfe to his service: And now it is my onely joy, with grieve to recollect my former wickednesse. Of late I have found out a small private place, (call it, as you please, least of Cells, or greatest of Graves,) wherein I intend wholly to devote the Remnant of my life to Meditation of Mortallity. For seeing naturally our selves are too deeply rooted in Earthlinesse, it is good to loosen them a little before,

that so by Death, they may be pluckt up with the more Easinesse: Not that wilfully, either out of Lazinesse, or Sullenesse, I decline to serve my Country, which claims a Share in mee. But though I know I am not to live for my selfe, I am to dye to my selfe, and may now at this Age, justly Challenge to my selfe a Writt of ease, from all wordly employment.

11. But *Basilus* perceiving that he did but Complement a denyall, pressed him with the greater importunity: Confessing it would torment the modesty of his *Highnesse* to be told how high the Audit of his vertues did amount, knowing that he desired rather to deserve then hear his own commédations. But withall instantly intreated him to remember (what he full well understood) that the Intreaties of a whole State, had the power
of

of Commands; and that Heaven it selfe was not so impregnable, but that it might be battered open, by the importunity of poore Petitioners, That from his acceptance of this their humble Proffer, they should hereafter date the begining of their Happinesse. That this day should stand in the Front of their *Almanackes*, and in Scarlet Text, as a leader, command over the rest, which followed it, as the new *Birth-Day* of the Grecian Empire.

12. However at that present nothing more was effected, & because it was late, the Assembly was dismissed, only some principall Persons were appointed with their private perswasions, to mollifie the stiffenesse of *Andronicus*, who prevailed so farre, that meeting next morning in the full concourse of all Sorts of

People, *Andronicus*, first loosened the Vizard of his dissimulation for a time, letting it fairly hang by, at last it fell off of it's owne accord, and thankfully accepted their Shouts, and Exclamations, with **G O D SAVE ALEXIUS AND ANDRONICUS JOINT EMPEROURS OF GREECE.**

13. Then mounted on a high Tribunall, he made an eloquent Oration, as indeed he was not onely sweet, but lushious in his Language, and with the Circles of fine Parases, could charme any Stranger, both into love, and admiration of his person; smiling, with a pleasant Countenance, he told them, that he conceived his owne Condition was represented in the Eagle, displayed in the Imperiall Standard: For as *Naturalists* report.

port, that Sovereigne of birds,
renewes his Age; so hee seemed
to himselfe grown young again:
as if the Heavens had bestowne
upon him, new Shoulders for
new burdens. And seeing it was
their pleasure, to elect him to
the place, he promised to rescue
Right out of the Paws of Op-
pression, to be the onely *Master*
of requests: so that all complaints,
should have free Accessie to
him, and, if just, Redresse from
him. But especially he would be
Carefull of his owne Conversa-
tion, intending, (Grace assis-
ting him) to *have a Law in his*
owne example. In a word, his
speech was all excellent good in
it selfe, save for this onely fault,
that not one syllable thereof,
was either truly intended or
really performed.

14. The Solemnities of his
Coronation were performed in

D 3

great

great State, with much Pompe and Expence ; And we may observe, that the *Coronations* of usurpers, are generally more gorgious in their Celebrations, than those of lawfull Princes. For usurpers, out of excessive joy of what they have undeservedly gotten care not what Cost they lavish, Besides, Ceremonies are more substantiall to them, to tell the world what they are, who otherwise would take lesse notice of them, as not intituled by any right to the place they possess. Whereas Kings, on whose Heads Crownes are dropt from Heaven, by lineall descent, often save superfluous Charges, at their Coronation, as being but a bare Ceremony, deriving or adding no right unto them, but onely clearing and declaring the same to others.

15. The noise of the peoples
Shouts,

Shouts, did allarm young *Alex-
ius*, which hitherto was fast slee-
ping in some obscure Corner, &
little dream't, that meane while,
an Empire was stollen away from
him. But now coming to *Andro-
nicus*, he publickly congratula-
ted his happinesse, & with a smi-
ling countenance, embraced him
as hartily glad, that he had gotten
so good a companion in so great
an employment. We read, that
in the Country of *Lituania*, there
is a peculiar Custome that mar-
ried men have *Adjutores Tori*,
Helpers of the marriage bed,
which, by their concent, lye with
their wives; and these husbands
are so farre from conceiving ei-
ther Hatred or Jealousie against
them, that they esteeme them
their principall friends. Surely
the Beds in that Country are
bigger than in other places:
seeing amongst all other Nati-

ons, a wife is a Vessell, where-
in the Cape-Merchant will
not admit any Adventurers
to share with him. It seemes, *A-*
lexius was one of this *Lituanian*
Temper, that could accept a
Partner in his Empire, tickled
with joy at the shewes and So-
lemnities of his Coronation,
(and well might hee laugh till
his heart did ake, though some
did verily thinke, that amongst
all the Pageants there presented,
he himselfe was the strangest, &
most ridiculous spectacle. As
for *Xene* the Empresse, shee ap-
peared not at all in publique, be-
ing pensive at home, having al-
most wept out her owne Eyes
because *Proto-Sebastus* had his
bored out.

16. Next very day in all Pat-
ents and publick Receipts, their
Names were transposed. First,
Andronicus, and then *Alexius*,
this

this reason being rendred, that it was unfitting that a youth should be preferred before so grave, and Reverent an old Man. Or rather, because, as in Numeration, the Figure is to be put before the Cypher. Here some of the friends of *Alexius* propounded, to stop the ambition of *Andronicus*, before the Gangrene thereof spread further; seeing what he received, did not satisfie, but enlarge his proud breast, prompting new thoughts unto him, and widening his heart for higher desires The motion found many to praise, but not to practice it; none would do, what all desired were done. The younger sort conceived, that this office, because dangerous, was most proper for old men to undertake, who need not to be thrifty of their lives, seeing it was too late

to spare at the Bottome. Old men were of the opinion, it best befeemed the Boldnesse & Activity of youth : and such as were of middle Age, did partake of the Excuses of both. Thus in a Project that is apparently desperate, even those who are proudest on their termes of Honour will bee so humble, as in modesty to let meaner men goe before them

17. As for the *Lords of the Combination*, (who first procured *Andronicus* his comming to *Constantinople*,) they found themselves, that they now had farre over-shot the Marke they aimed at. For they intended onely to use him for the present, to humble and abate the Pride, and power of *Proto-Sebastus*. Which done, they meant, either wholly to remove, or warily to confine him.

him. But now what they chose for Physick must be given them for daily food: and wofull is the condition of that man, who, in case of necessity, taking hot water to prevent Swooning, must ever after drinke it for Beverage, even to the burning out of his Bowells. For *Andronicus* though he came in as a Tenant at will, would hold his place in Fee to himself and his *Heires*. And whereas the aforesaid LORDS promised themselves, if not Advancement to new Assurance to their old Offices; they found themselves preferr'd to nothing but neglect and contempt: neither intrusted in the Advice, nor imployed in the Execution of any matters of Moment.

18. Indeed *Andronicus* did loath the sight of those *Lords*, as Debtors doe of Bailiffes, as
if

if their very looks did arrest him to pay for those Grand favours which he had formerly received from them, brought by their help from banishment, to power and wealth in the Citty. Nor would he make use of them, as too sturdy to bee pliable to his Projects; standing on their former deserts and present Dignities; but employed those *Officers* of his owne planting, which might be easily wreathed to all purposes, being base *up-starts*, depending on his absolute Pleasure. And as he used these alone, so these onely in matter of *Execution*: who taking himselfe, (and therein not mistaken) to be sole friend to himselfe, would not impart his Counsells to any one, being wont to say, that Ships sinke as deep with one, as with one hundred *Leakes*.

19. Wee will conclude this
Pook

Booke with an Independent story, hoping the *Reader* will take it as we finde it. There was a noted Beggar in *Constantinople*, well known to the people thereabouts, (as who had almost worn the Thresholds of Noble mens doores, as bare as his owne cloathes) an exceeding tall, raw-bon'd body, with a meagre, and lanke Belly, so that hee might have passed for Famine it selfe. This man was found begging about the lodgings of *Andronicus*, very late at night, at an unseasonable houre, except one would say, that men of his profession, as they are never out of their way, so they are never out of their time, but may seasonably beg at any houre, when they are hungry. Being apprehended at the Guard, and accused for a *Conjurer*, (his ugly face being all the Evidence against him,)

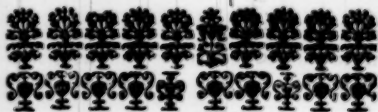
Andro-

1180. *Andronicus* delivered him over to the indiscreet discretion of the People, to doe with him as they pleased. These wilde Justicers, without legall prooffe, or further proceeding, for *Almes*, bestowed on him a Pile of *Wood* and a great fire, where they burnt him to *Ashes*, whose fact might justly have intitled him to a *whipping* Post, but not to a *Stake*.

20. Say not that this is beneath our History, to insert the Death of a *Beggar* in the life of an *Emperour*. For all Innocents are equall in the Court of Heaven; And this *poore man*, who whilst alive, was so loud at great Mens doores, for meat to preserve his life, his bloud may be presumed to bee as crying and clamorous at the gates of Heaven to revenge his death. For herein *Andronicus* taught the

the People to bee Tyrannicall, 1180.
a needlesse Lesson to such *apt*
Schollers, who afterwards pro-
ved Proficients herein, to the
cost of their Teacher, as, God
willing, shall be shewed here-
after.

The



The third Book,

I.



HE newes of *An-*
dronicus his being
 chosen joynt-Em-
 perour, no sooner
 arrived at the eares of *Maria*
Cesarissa, but she was drowned
 in a deluge of griefe: being be-
 holden to nature that she could
 vent her selfe in teares; seeing
 that sorrow, which cannot bleed
 in the eyes, doth commonly fe-
 ster in the heart. And when her
 Nurse lovingly chid her, for ex-
 cessive sadnesse, she pleaded her
 sex, which can scarce do any
 thing without over-doing; so
 that Feminine passions, must ei-
 ther

ther not be full, or overflow.

2. But anger, soon after having got the conquest of her owne grief, with furious speed she repaired to the place, where the *Lords of the combination* were assembled, & ther she abruptly v^eted her self in these Expressions.

3. "*Greece is grown barbarous,*
"*and quite bereft of its former*
"*worth; not so much as the ruines*
"*of valor left in you, to reach forth*
"*unto posterity, any signes that*
"*you were extracted from brave*
"*ancestors. Time was when the*
"*Grecian youth adventured for the*
"*Golden-fleece, you may now ad-*
"*venture for the Asses Skinne, the*
"*dull Embleme of your owne con-*
"*ditions: The merry Greeke, hath*
"*now drowned the Proverb of the*
"*valiant Greeke. Time Traytors*
"*all! that could behold an Usur-*
"*per, Mate & check your lawfull*
"*Emperour, & neither wighan l*

" or tongue in opposition. Did my
 " Father Manuel for this, impaire
 " his own, to raise your estates? He
 " made you honourable and great :
 " Oh that hee could have made you
 " gratefull ! The best is, your very
 " sin will be your punishment. And
 " though your practise hath beene
 " so base, your judgement cannot
 " be so blinde as to believe, that
 " your Channells of Nobility can
 " have a stream, when the Foun-
 " taine of Honour is dammed up,
 " by your unworthinesse.

3. The Lords, though by
 their silence they seemed first to
 swallow her words, yet the ex-
 pression of *Tame Traitors* would
 not goe downe their Throats ;
 the largest soules being narrow-
 est in point of credit, and soo-
 nest choakt with a disgrace. *Ma-*
malus therefore in the behalfe of
 the rest ; *Madam* (said he) suffi-
 ceth it now for us, barely to deny
 your

your speech. Had you beene a man, wee should have proceeded to defie the Speaker. What your passion now condemnes in us for base; your judgement will not onely acquit, for right, and approve, for safe: but even commend for honourable, and advantageous for our Master Alexius. Our Lives and Lands, are at the sole dispose; and the cruell mercy of our enemies. We are instantly undone, if wee whisper the least and lowest syllable of Loyalty, and utterly disabled from any future service to Alexius. Wee conceive it therefore better for a time, to bow to our Foes, rather then to be broken by them: To spare in words, and spend what wee please, in thoughts. We want not a will, but wait a time, to expresse our reallity to the Emperour, with most safety to our selves, and effect for him, in a season, least subject to suspition.

5. Pacified with these words, shee was contented to attend the performance of the Promise, in time convenient; though never living so long, as to behold it, being prevented by violent Death. For now *Andronicus* began freely to rage in Innocent blood, cutting off such Nobles as hee thought would oppose him. Something like truth was alledged against them, to stop the Clamours of the multitude. And power never wants pretences, & those legall, to compasse what doth desire. They were indicted of Conspiracy against *Andronicus*; And Knights of the Post, (of the Devils owne dubbing) did depose it against them. Yea, silence was not enough to preserve mens Innocence: some being accused that their Noses did wrinkle, or their Eyes winke, or their Fore-heads frown,

frowne, or their Fingers snap ^{1181.}
Treason against *Andronicus*.

6. In this his Epidemical cruelty it was much, that a famous Jester of the Court escaped his fury. Of this fellow, his body downwards was a Foole, his head a Knave, who did carefully note, & cunningly vent, by the privileges of his Coat, many State-pallages, uttering them in a wary twilight, betwixt sport and earnest. But belike, *Andronicus* would not break himself by stooping to so low Revenge, & made conscience in breaking the ancient Charter of Jesters, though wronging the Liberty of others, of greater Concernment.

7. Of such as were brought to publique Execution, it was strange to behold, the difference of their demeanour. Some, who were able to bee miserable, with an undaunted minde, did become their afflictions, and by

their Patience made their miseries to smile, not bowing their Soules beneath themselves, only appealing for Justice in another world. Others did foolishly rage, and ramp, mustring whole Legions of Curses, as if therewith to make the Axe turne Edge. And then seeing no Remedy but Death, their Soules did not bow by degrees, but fell flat in an instant; of Lyons, turning Calves, halfe dead with feare, received the fatall stroake of the Executioner. So many were confusedly hudled to death, it is hard to rank them in order, only we will insift on some principall persons.

8. First, *Maria Caesarissa*, and her Husband (whether it was Conscience or Manners, not to part man and wife;) and because *Andronicus* durst not, for feare of the People, bring them to publick

publicke death, their *Physitian* was brib'd with Gold, which he conceived cordiall for himselfe; And thereupon he did quickly purge out both their Soules by Poyson, (an unsuspected way,) which robs men of their lives, & yet never bids them to stand.

9. Next followed *Xene* the Mother Empreſſe being accused of high Treason for attempting to betray the City of *Belgrade*, to *Bela K. of Hungarie*. A pack't councell condemn'd her to death, which though otherwise vitious, was generally bemoaned, as most innocent in this particular. But, *Andronicus* the Emperour, cunningly derived the whole hatred hereof on yong *Alexius* (whose power hee never used or owned, but only to make him the Cloak-father for odious Acts) urging him to signe the Warrant for her execution. In

1181. the stoute refusall whereof, *Alexius* shewed more Constancy then was expected to come from him, clearly answering all Arguments, herein shewing himselfe a childe in *Affection*, and more then a child in *Judgement*. Whereupon some ground their presumptions, that his soule deserved better breeding, and that hee was not to bee censured for weakenesse of Capacity; but rather his friends to bee condemned, for want of care, and himselfe to bee bemoaned, for lacke of Education. Hee flatly told *Andronicus*, that *Nero* was recorded Monster to all Ages, for killing his Mother: And that hee would never consent to her death, that gave him life.

1c. But hee proceeded to aggravate the crime of *Xene*, *Belgrade* being such a piece of strength,

strength, that it was a whole Province in effect. And though but a Towne in *Bulke*, was a Kingdome in *Benefit*. All *Greece* awfully attending the fortune thereof. Hee minded *Alexius*, that *Fathers of Countreys*, should know no *Mothers*; but that *Soveraignes* affections are onely of kinne to the good and safety of their Subjects. Besides, (saith hee) you need not scruple so much at her death, who is dead whilst living, and hath been many yeares drowned in *Luxurie*. So that what was cruelty in *Nero*, will be Exemplary Justice in you.

11. *Alexius* rejoyned, that if his Mother *Xene* was so d owned in *Luxurie*, the more need she had to drown her sinnes in penitent Teares, except it were conceived charity to kill both her soule and body. That Prin-

ces were not to own private affections, where they were destructive to the Common good, but might and must, where they consisted with the publike safety. Or else to become a *Prince*, would bee all one, as to leave off to be a *man*. Grant *Belgrade* a strong Place; it was still in their owne possession, and her intended Treason succeeded not. And therefore he conceiv'd it a middle and indifferent way, that she should bee depriv'd of liberty for plotting of Treason, and yet be permitted to live, because the Plot took no effect: A cloister should be provided, where-to she should bee close confin'd, therein to doe Penance for her former enormities. And in this Sentence, he conceived that hee impartially divided himselfe betwixt the affection of a Childe, and

and severity of a Jugde.

1181.

12. But *Andronicus* who was resolved to have no denyall, highly commended him for his filiall care of his Mothers soule: Tet, said he, for the benefit thereof, fifty Fryers at my owne proper charges, shall bee appointed, which after her death, Night and day, shall daily pay their prayers in her behalfe, whose sufferages are as well knowne above, as her Prayers are strangers there: it being to bee presumed, that whilst shee is living, the Heavens will be deafe to her, which so long have beene dumb to them. Speake not of her Project that it tooke no effect: for had it succeeded, none would have called it Treason, but have beheld it under a more favourable Notion. Hee minded *Alexius*, that hee had sufficient power of himselfe, being joynt-Emperour to put her to death:
but

but that he would in no case deprive him of this peerelesse Opportunity of Eternizing his memory to posterity, and securing the State by his necessary Severity. For all hereafter would be deterred from attempting of Treason, as despairing of pardon, when they beheld the Exemplary justice on his own Mother.

13. *Alexius* still persisting in his denyall, *Andronicus* at last fell to flat menacing, yet so cunningly carryed it, that his threats did not seeme to proceede from any anger, but from love to the person, and griefe for the perverseness of *Alexius*. Hee protested he would no more breake his sleepe, he would steere the State no longer; Let even the Windes and the waves hereafter bee the Pilots to that crazie vessell. He call'd the Heavens to wit-

witnesse, (before whom hee entred a Caveat to preserve his owne Innocence,) how hee had tendered happinesse to *Alexius*, but could not force it upon him, who wilfully refused it. In a word, so passionate he was, and so violent was the streame of his importunity, that the young Emperour, either out of weaknesse, or wearinesse to swimme against it, was at last carryed away with the Current thereof, and subscribed the Warrant.

14. To divert whose minde from musing upon it, a solemne Hunting in the Countrey was contrived, that there he might take his pleasure. In a Forrest not farre off, a stately Stagge was lodged, ambitious (as they told him) to fall by the hand of an Emperour, or else to bee dubbed an *Hart Imperiall*, if chancing to escape. All things being ready,

Alexius

Alexius is carried thither ; but withall , those are sent along with him , which hunted this Hunter , markt all his motions , learnt the language of his looks , and hands , with the different Dialects of his severall fingers , so that hee could not speake a word , or make signe to any of his faithfull servants , but presently it was observed , and if materiall , reported to *Andronicus*. None of his friends durst shew any discontent. If any was seen sadly to wag his head , it was a certaine signe that that head stood but loose on his shoulders , and by the next returne , the newes would bee , that 'twas fallen off : so miserable was the condition of this Prince , and of all his followers.

But *Andronicus* had a Hinde to hunt at home , and must provide

vide for the Execution of *Xene*.
And now to enter the tender
yeares of his sonne *Manuel*, for
great Actions, he thought first
to blood him with an *Empresse*,
in private delivering the War-
rant unto him. Behold here an
unexpected accident! This good
Childe of a bad Father, (Grace
can cut off the oldest, and stron-
gest Entaile of Wickednesse) re-
fused the Employment, alledg-
ing, there was no such dearth of
Hangmen, that a Prince neede
take their Office; and that it
was against his conscience, her
Crime being rather pack't then
prov'd, seeing shee was never
brought to answer for her selfe:
Hereat his Father mad with
rage, rated and reviled him.
*Bastard, thou wert never true
Eagles Bird, whose eyes are daz-
led at the sunne of Womans Beau-
ty. What? doth thy Cowardize
take*

1181. take Sanctuary at Conscience? Hee never climbs a Throne, that stands on such poore pretences. What if shee never appeared to answer? where the fact it selfe doth cry, it is needlesse for the offender to speake: Narrow-hearted foole! A Cottage is fitter for thee than an Empire. Have I pawned mine owne soule, to found thy greatnesse, and am I thus requited? and so abruptly brake off into weeping.

16. Manuel Modestly returned: I am sorry Sir, you should pawne your soule for my sake, but however I am resolved not to loose mine owne. Whosoever climbs a Throne without Conscience, never sits sure upon it. I had rather succede to your private paternall possession, then to an ill-gotten Empire. Nor am I dazled at the Lustre of her beauty, but at the clearenesse of her Innocence; all
men

men being generally Compurgators for her integrity herein. Employ me, and trye my valour in any other service. Command, and I will fetch the Lions onely heire out of his Den, both in sight and spight of Sire & Dam: onely herein I desire to be excused, and I hope deserve not to be accounted a Coward for fearing to commit a sinne. How much *Andronicus* was bemadded here-at, may ealier be conceived, than exprest, to receive a finall repulse from his owne Sonne, insomuch as at the last he was faine to make use of *Hagio Christophorites Stephanus*, Captaine of the guard (who alone of all the Lords of the Combination, stuck to him and was respected of him) and hee very fairely tooke order to dispatch her, stifling her (as some say) betwixt two Pillowes.

17. The next Newes which
F tooke

1181. tooke possession of the Tongues
 & eares of people, was the cruell
 & barbarous death of young *Alexius*: whilst, the vulgar did
 wonder that he dyed so soone, &
 the wise did more admire that he
 lived so long; and the difference
 was not great betwixt him that
 was now but a Ghost, & whilst li-
 ving but a shadow.* *Basilins* went
 too far to fetch a fit Paralell out
 of the Roman History, to com-
 pare *Andronicus* & *Alexius* with
 old *Fabius* and sprightfull *Mar-*
cellus; who might have met in
 the same story farre nearee, (be-
 cause later by 100 yeares) a more
 lively resemblance in the Con-
 sulship of *Julius Caesar* & *Bibulus*,
 whereof the one did all, the o-
 ther dranke all,

* Vide su-
 pra. 2 lib.
 parag 9.

18. The manner of *Alexius*
 his death was, that hee had his
 neck broken with a Bow-string;
 the punishment in that place, (as
 still

still amongst the Turkes) much used: and in this *Tyrants* Reigne, the string did cruelly strangle more at home, than the Bow did valiantly kill a broad. This Bow-string (to make a short digression) was an Instrument whereon *Andronicus* used to play, and sportingly to make much Mirth and musick thereon to himselfe, calling it *his medicine for all Malladies*. For whereas (saide he) Purges were base, Vomits worse, Cupping painfull, Glisters immodest, bloud-letting Cruell; this Bow-string had all the opposite good qualities unto them. And the same did quench the heat of Feavers, draine the moisture of Dropsies, cure Plurisies without piercing a veine, stay the Vertigo, heale the Strangurie, by opening the Urine, and onely stopping the bre: th. This being

one base humour of *Andronicus*, (unworthy Civility and Christianity) to breake jests on men in miserie, just as they were to dye. As for the Corps of *Alexius* (on whom he had practised with his foresaid Medicine,) they were most unworthily handled, and dead Bodies, though they cannot bee hurt, may be wrong'd, especially of such eminent persons.

19. Now to refresh the Reader a-mid'st so many murders, and Massacres; it will not be amisse, to insert an unexpected Marriage. *Alexius* left *Anna* an Emperesse Dowager. And some days after her husbands death, he address'd himselfe a Sutor unto her, being to encounter with invincible disadvantages. First he came reaking with the bloud of slaine *Alexius*. And what hope could hee have that shee would embrace that Viper, that had

had stung her other-selſe to death! Secondly the disproportion of his Age, being past 70. & what motly colour'd Marriage, would it make to joyne his *gray* to *greene*! his cold *November* being enough to kill her flourish *May*. Notwithstanding all this, he had formerly been so flesh't with fortune, he conceived he could never bee leane afterwards; and knew that in matters of this nature, confidence in attempting, is more thā half the way to success.

20. First he possess'd himſelie of her judgement, and made her beleeve, that all his former undertakeings, were in service to her, grieving that *Alexius* did not valewe the *Pearle* he wore. He protested there was nothing about him old but his haire, w^h were dyed white not by his Age, but by his Carefullnelle for her preservation. Then, he assaulted

her affection, principally pressing that Argument, which was never propounded to a meere woman, & returned with a denial, namely, assuring her of power & greatnes, promising she should be the Conduit, through which all his favours should pass, & all his people under his command, should be blest or blasted by her influence, neither were gifts wanting, & those of the largest size, bestowed on her Servants, (who promoted his cause) and the dullest bodies worke on the most subtile Soules, by the mediation of such Spirits.

21. Now, whether it was out of Childishnesse, not being full fourteene, or out of feare, being farre from her friends, and her Person in his power; or out of pride, loath to abate of her former State; she assented to his desire. But to speake plainly, he shew

sheweth himself to have store of leisure, & want of worke, who is imployed to finde a Root in Reason, for all the fruit that growes from Fancie: sufficeth it, she loved him affirming it, it was no wonder, that he should take a poore Ladies Affections captive, whose valour in the Field, had subdued the most manly of his Enemies.

22. To make this story passe for probable, we may fellow it, with the like in our English Chronicles. **RICHARD** the Third, though not so old, more ugly, then **ANDRONICUS** obtained the love, and was married to the Countesse of Warwicke, the Relict of Prince *Edward* (son to King *Henry* the sixt) whom the same *Richard* had slaine at *Tenxbury*, she knowing so much, & he not denying it, They were namesakes, both *Ann's*, & when

1181. they had cast up their Audit, both, I beleeve, might equally boast of their Bargaines.

23. But *Andronicus* who was never unseasonably Amorous (but had his Lust subordinate to his Ambition & cruelty, when they gave him leave & leasure to to prosecute his pleasure) was not softened by the Dalliance of marriage, to remit any thing of his former Tyranny. He protested that he counted the day lost, wherein he had not kill'd or tortur'd some eminent Person: or else, so *planett-struck* him with his frownes, that he enjoyed not himselfe after. He never put two men together to death after the same way; as not consisting with his state to weare one torture threed-bare, but ever appeared in exchange, and variety of new manner of punishments. And if any wonder, that there was not

a generall insurrection made against this monster of mankind, to rend him from the Earth; know that he had one humour, that did much helpe him, in being sterne & cruell to Noblemen but affable & courteous to poore people, and so still kept in with the vulgar. Besides, many state-ly Structures he erected, and sweetned his cruelties with some good acts for the Publique. Now that we might not seeme to have weeded the life of *Andronicus*, or to be a kin to those flies, which travelling by many fragrant Flowers, onely make their residence, on some fore, or Dung-hill, we will recount some of his good deeds, and pittie it was, that they had not proceeded from a better Author.

24. Hee surveyed the Walls of *Constantinople*, & mended them, wheresoever the chinkes thereof
did

did cal for reparation. He pluckt downe all the buildings without (yet so, that the owners sustained no losse thereby) for feare in case of an enemies invasion, those houses might serve them for ladders to scale the City with more ease. Thus all *Constantinople* was brought within the compasse of her Walls, (as she remaines at this day) not like many ill proportioned Cities in *Europe*, which groane under over-great Suburbs (so that the Children overtop the Mother (& branch themselves forth into out-Streets, to the impairing of the roote, both weakning and impoverishing the City it selfe. He bestowed great cost in adorning the *Porphyric Throne*, which an Usurper did provide and beautifie, for a lawfull Prince to sit upon it. Hee brought fresh water, (a Treasure in that place) through a Magnificent

ficent Aqueduct, into the heart of the City, which after his death was spoyled out of spight (as private revenge in a furious fit, oft impaires the publique good) people disclaiming to drinke of his water, who had made the streets runne with bloud. His benefaction to the Church of forty Martyrs amounted almost to a new founding thereof, intending his Tombe in that place, though it was arrant presumption in him who had denied the right of Sepulture to others, to promise the Solēnity thereof unto him selfe.

25. But that which gained him the greatest Reputation far and neare, even amongst those that never saw his face, was, an Edict for the saving of Ship-wrackt goods. There was amongst the Greeks a constant practice, founded in cruelty, & strengthened by custome; that if a vessell was discovered in danger of drowning, those

1181.

those on the shore like so many ravenous Vultures, flockt about that Carcasse, to pick out the eyes thereof, the wealth therein. These made all their Hay in foule weather, which caused them not only duely to wait, but heartily to wish for a Tempest: And as the wicked Tenants in the Gospell concluded to *kill the Heire that so the Inheritance might bee their owne*, These remorselesse men, to prevent future Cavills and clamours about the goods; dispatcht the Mariners, alwayes by wilfull neglecting their preservation, & too often by downe-right contriving their destruction. More cruell then the very stocks & stumps of Trees, which growing by Rivers sides, commonly hang over the water, as if out of pity, tending their service to such as are in danger of drowning, & stooping downe to reach their hands

to

to helpe them to the shore. Now, *Andronicus* taking this barbarous Custome into Consideration, forbad it, for the time to come, on most terrible penalties, (and this Lion, if enraged, would by his loudnesse, roare Hearing into the deafe) & enjoyned all to improve their utmost endeavours, for the preservation of their persons. Hence followed such an alteration, that shipwrack't goods, if floating to land, safely kept themselves without any to guard them. Men would rather blow their fingers, than heat their hands with a rotten Planke; rather go naked, than cover themselves with a rag of Shipwrackt Canvas: It was ominous to steale the least inch of a Cable, least it lengthen it selfe into an *Halter* to him that tooke it. All things were preserved equally safe, of what value soever, and un-

1181. untold *Pearle*, might lye on the Shore untoucht, like so many *Oyster-shells*. This dispersed the fame of his Justice and Mercy into forraigne parts: And as sounds which are carried along by the Rivers side, having the advantage of hollow Banks, & the water to convey them, are heard sooner and quicker, then sounds of the same loudnelle, over the Land; So the Maritim Actions of Princes, concerning Trading, wherein Strangers, as wel as their owne Native Subjects are interested, report them to the world in a higher Tone, and by a quicker passage, than any Land-lockt Action of theirs, which hath no further in fluence, but only terminates in their owne Kingdome. Yea this one ingratiating Decree of *Andronicus*, did set him up with so full stock of Reputation, that upon the bare credit thereof, might

might now runne on skore, the 1181.
committing of many Murthers,
and never have his name once
called to accompt for any injust-
ice therein.

26. And as the Sea-men by
water, so the Husband-men by
land (and those wee know have
strong Lungs, and stout sides)
cryed up the fame of *Androni-
cus*, because he was a great pre-
server of Tillage, and Corne
was never at more reasonable
rates than in his Reigne. Hee
cast a strict eye on all Customers
and Tax-gatherers, and (as
evill Spirits are observed to walk
much about silver Mines) so *An-
dronicus* did incessantly haunt
all publique receivers of money;
and if finding them faulty; oh
excellent sport for the people to
see how those Sponges were
squeezeed! Hee allowed large and
liberal maintenance to all in pla-
ces

ces of Judicature, that *want* might not tempt them to corruption. Thus, even the worst of Tyrants light some times on good actions, either stumbling on them by chance, or out of love (not of vertue, but) of their owne security. They are wicked by the generall *Rule* of their lives, and pious by some *Exceptions*, *just*, by fits, that they may be more safely *unjust* when they please. And hereby *Andronicus* advanced himselfe to bee tollerable amongst Man-kinde.

27. Wee could willingly afford to dwell longer under the Temperate Climate of his Vertues; but Travellers must *on* their journey. Comming now to the *Third Zone* of his Fury, which indeed was not habitable: His Foes hee executed, because they were his foes; and his friends, because they were his friend

friends. For they that let out a Courtesie at Interest to a Tyrant, commonly loose the Principall: Witnesse *Conto-Stephanus*, the great Duke, Admirall of the Galleyes who by betraying his trust, brought *Andronicus* to *Constantinople*, and now fairely had his eyes put out. As for *Georgius-Dissipatus*, *Andronicus* intended to roast him, being a Corpulent man, upon a Spit, affirming that such fat Venison wanted no Larding, but woulde baste it selfe, and meant to serve him up as a dainty dish in a Charger or Tray, to his Widdow, had not some intervening accident diverted it. He made a bloody Decree, which had a traine of indefinite, and unlimited extent, and would reach as farre as the desire of the measurer: namely, that all such of the nobility which were, now,

or should, hereafter, be cast into Prison; should bee executed without any legall Triall, with their Children and Kindred. Prince *Manuell*, (whose worst fault was, that *Andronicus* begat him) in vaine opposed this Decree, alleaging this to be the ready way for his Father to un-Emperour himselfe, by destroying that Relative *Title*, and leaving himselfe no Subjects.

18. But *Andronicus* had found Scripture, whereby to justifie his Act, and brough St. * *Paule* for his Patron, whose practice and confession he cited. *For the Good that I would, I doe not; But the evill which I would not, that I doe. Now if I doe that I would not, it is no more I that doe it, but sinne that dwelleth in me.* God keep us from Apocrypha-Comments on Canonickall Scripture:
send

* Rom. 7.
19, 20.

send us his pure Text without the glosse of *Andronicus*, who, be-like, conceiv'd hee could not be a perfect Tyrant, by onely torturing of men, except also he did rack Gods Word, rending Text from Con-text, and both, from their true intent.

29. This Decree startles such Lords of the Combination as were left alive, together with *Mamalus*, principall Secretary to the late Emperour, and *Alexius Ducas*, the most Active, but not nearest, Prince of the bloud. These, meeting together, much bemoaned themselves, till *Mamalus* counting such puling passion beneath Masculine Spirits, thus uttered himselfe.

30. *You late adorers of Andronicus, who did conceive it would pose the power of heaven to cure the State, save onely by his hand, be your owne Judges, whether it be*

1181. not just that they should dye of the Physicke who made a God of the Physitian. Diseases doe but their kind, if they kill, and, an evill expected, is the lesse evill: but no such Torment as to dye of the remedie: Onely one helpe is left us, if secretly and speedily pursued. Wee know, Isaacius Angelus by birth and merit is intituled to the Crowne. True, hee lives privately in a Convent, but worth cannot bee hid, it shines in the darke; and greatnesse doth best become them to weare it, by whom it is found, before it is sought for, as more deserved then desired by them: say not that he is of too milde a disposition; for, his soft temper will make the better Pultis for our sore necks, long gauled with the yoke of Tyranny. And seeing we have thus long been unhappy under the extremities, the childe-hood of Alexius, and old yeares of Andronicus.

nicus, let us try our fortunes under the middle age of *Isaaci* : And no doubt we shall light on the blessed meane and happy temper of Moderation.

31. The motion found entertainment beyond beliefe. And yet *Alexius Ducas* offer'd it to their consideration; that so meek a Dove would never make good Eagle : Giving a Character, how a Prince should be accomplished with valour and experience, by insinuation designing himself. It is pleasant to heare a proud man speaking modestly in his owne praise, whil'st the Auditors affect a wilfull deafnesse, and will not heare his whispering, and stenting expressions, til at last he is faine to hollow downe-right Selfe-flattery into their Eares. Here it fared thus with *Ducas*, who thereby only, exposed himselfe to contempt : & perceiving

no succeſſe, zealouſly concurr'd
with the reſt for advancing of
Iſaacius. All neceſſary particu-
lars were politiquely contrived,
each one had his taſke appointed
him: ſome, to ſeize on the ſhips,
others, to ſecure the Pallace,
make good the great Church:
and the whole modell was exact-
ly methodized, conſidering the
vaſt Volume thereof, which
conſiſted of many perſons of
quality therein engaged.

The



The Fourth Book,

I. **B**UT, great designes,
like wounds, if they
take Aire, corrupt.
This project, against
Andronicus, could not be covert-
ly carried, because consisting of
a medly of persons, of different
tempers, and un-fuiting soules
having private intents, to them-
selves, not cordiall, uniting their
affections, but onely Friends, for
the time being, against the com-
mon Foe: So that, through the
Riftes, and chinks of their se-
verall aimes and ends, which
could not be joynted close to-
gether

gether, the vigilancie of *Andronicus* did steale a glymps of their designe, apprehensive enough to light a candell for himselfe from the sparke of the smallest discovery.

2. And now let him alone to prevent their proceedings, by cutting both them and theirs off (that no mindfull heire might succeed to their spite) and that withall possible speed; for hee steer'd his actions by the compas of that character, which one made of him, as followeth.

*I love at leasure, favours to bestow:
And tickle men by dropping kindnesse slow,
But my revenge, I in one instant spend,
That moment which begins it, doth it end.*

*Halfe doing undoe's many, 'tis a sinne
Not to be soundly sinfull; to begin,
And tire; I le do the worke. They strike in vain
Who strike so, that the stricken might complain,*

3. *Mamalus* was the first who was brought to Execution, on
this

this manner. A mighty fire was made, and to provoke the Tyrannie thereof (as if that pure Element of it selfe had been too fine and slender, effectually to torment him) they made the flame more stiffe, and stuffie, by the mixture of pitch and brimstone. Then *Mamalus* was brought forth starke naked, in-somuch that all ingenuous beholders, out of a modest Sympathy, conceived, that they saw themselves naked, in seeing him: and therefore, (as much as lay in their power) they covered him, by shutting their eyes. When the Souldiers with Pikes, were provided to thrust *Mamalus* into the fire, whil'st many Spectatours durst not expresse their pittie to him, out of pittie to themselves; lest commiserating of him, should be understood complying with him; but
were

were cautious to confine their Compassion, within the Compasse of their brest, that it should not sallie forth, into their eyes, and outward gestures.

4. Betwixt this Dilemma of Deaths, the sharpe Pikes of the Soldiers on the one side, & furie of the fire, on the other; he preferred the former, not as most honourable, and best complying with a military Soule; (not being at leasure alasse, in time of torment, to stand on termes of credit,) but as least painfull. But the Soldiers denied him this choyce, and forc'd him into the fire; and then hearing his 'Shreekes, even those who refus'd, out of favour, to give any pittie to his person, could not, out of justice, denie the payment of some compassion, (bound there-unto, by the Specialtie of Humanity) unto his miserable condition.

5. Meane time, *Andronicus*, 1182.

was a Spectatour, tickling himselfe with delight, only offended, that the Sport was so short, and *Mamalus* dead too soone. The stench of whose burning flesh (offensive to others) was a perfume to him, who had the *Roman-Nose* of Caligula, Nero, Domitian, & such Monsters of cruelty. And, as he pleased his owne smell, with the Odour of Revenge; his sight, with beholding the execution; his Eare with the Musicke of his enemies dying Groanes: So, there wanted not those that wish't, that his other senses, were also imployed, according to his deserts, his Touch & Taste, that they might feelingly partake of the torture of the fire. Thus dyed *Mamalus*, scarce twenty four yeares of Age, before the Bud of his youth had opened into a flower; having in
his

his parts, not onely promises, but some assurance, that the hopes of his future worth, should be plentifully performed, had not this untimely accident prevented it.

6. *Lapardas* acted next on the Scaffold, though not condemned to death, but to have his eyes bored out: His Extraction was noble, State greate, Pride greater; to maintaine which, he contrived the Advancing of *Andronicus* to the Throne: the under ground Foundation of whose greatnesse, was closely laid, by *Lapardas* whil'st he left the vilible Structure thereon, to others. Like a Mole he conveyed his train, closely spurring on *Basilius* (who posted of himselfe,) to act in odious Projects, whil'st himselfe sculk't unseen; hoping, if matters held, to be rewarded by *Andronicus* for his secret service; if they miscaried, to provid for his own safety; seeing

seeing none could challenge him,
of any appearing open ill Act^{ion}
wherein he was engaged.

7. But quickly he fell off of
his speed in serving *Andronicus*,
whether, because he conceived
his deserts found not a propor-
tionable Reward: or, because he
bare a love to the person of
Alexius; or, because he was not
perfectly bad, and fainting in
the way of wickednesse, could
not keepe pace therein, with the
fast and wide strides of *Andro-
nicus*, or which is most probable,
he slowly perceived his Errour,
that Tyrants plucke down those
staires, whereby they ascend to
their greatnesse: and then, too
late, began to unravell, what he
weaved before. True it was, he
had assisted *Andronicus*, so long,
that he had offended all the side
of *Alexius*, and had deserted
him so soone, that he dis-engaged
all the party of *Andronicus* and
so

so was unhappy not to have the cordiall Affections of either.

8. On the Scaffold he spake little expecting that the paine would kill him, confessing he ow'd a Death, to Nature, and a violent Death to Justice, and forgave all the world, save his owne selfe. Beholding the Sunne, Farewell (saide hee) *Life of my life, my night must bee at my noone*; and then laying his hands on his eyes: *Must I loose you thus? was it because I shot forth wanton Glances? Or, beheld Rivalls, with envious lookes? Or, adored the Shine of Gold; that I must thus lose you? Or, was it, because I acted in a darke way, to advance the cruelty of a Tyrant; that now all my endeavours are seene by the world, and I must be blinde? However, Divine justice appears cleereſt to mee, in the losse of my Eyes.* Thus was Lapardas tortured

red: and though some may think that *Andronicus* swerved from his Principle, taking away onely light, not life from him, and thereby rather more enraged him *for*, than wholly disabled him *from*, revenge; yet wee may bee assured, that Tyrant did never so do his workes by the halfe but that hee strook out their *Teeth*, whose *Eyes* hee bored out, so securing their persons, that he put them past power of doing him mischief.

9. During this raging cruelty of *Andronicus*; wee may commend, in *Theodorus* the Patriark, rather his successe, than policie, (his simple goodnesse being incapable of the later) who seasonably withdrew himselfe from *Constantinople*, to a private place he had provided in the Isle of *Terebynthus*: here hee had built him

1182. him an handsome house, equally distant from Envy and Contempt, *Bravery* and *basnesse*, so that if Security and sweetnesse had a minde to dwell together, they could not have found a fitter place for that purpose. Severall Reasons moved him to his speedy removall, besides the avoiding the fury of *Andronicus*. First, Because *Basilus* undermined him at the Court in his Patriarkship, *Theodorus* being absent *thence*, when present *there*; bearing only the name and blame, when the other had the power and profit thereof.

10. Secondly, to avoid the sight of People, conceiving every Eye which did behold, did accuse him, as a principall cause of their miseryes, for helping *Andronicus* to the Empire. In whom *Theodorus* had been
strangely

strangely mistook, as the best men are soonest deceived with the painted piety, and pensive looks of Hypocrites, counting all Gold that shines, all sooth, that is said; betraid by their owne charitie into a good opinion of other. Lastly, it grieved him to see ignorance and impiety so rampant, base hands committing dayly Rapes on the Virgin *Muses*; so that they might now even ring out the *Bell*, for dying learning, and sadly toll the knell for gasping Religion. Wherefore as *Divines* solemnly observe, to goe off of the *Bench* just before the sentence of condemnation is pronounced upon the Malefactor; so this Patriark, perceiving the City of *Constantinople*, *Cast*, by her owne guiltinesse, and by the confession of her crying finnes against her self; thought it not fit for him to stay

H

there,

there, till divine Justice should passe a finall fatall doome upon the place, (which he every minute expected) but embraced this private opportunity of departure.

11. Soon after his retiring, he ended his life: we neede not enquire into his disease, if we consider his age, accounting now fourescore & foure winters. And well might his yeares be reckoned by Winters, as wanting both Springs, and Summers of Prosperity, living in constant affliction. And yet the last foure yeares, made more wounds in his heart, then all the former plow'd wrinkles in his face. He dyed not guilty of any wealth, who long before, had made the poore his Heires, and his owne hands, his executors. After hearty Prayers, that Religion might shine when he was set, falling into

into a pious Meditation; hee went out as a *Lampe*, for lack of Oyle: no warning Groane was sigh'd forth to take his last farewell, but even he smiled himselfe into a Corps; enough to confute those, that they bely death, who call her *grim* and *grizely*; which in him seemed lovely and of a good complexion. The few servants hee left, proportioned the Funerall, rather to their Masters Estate, than Deserts, supplying in their sorrow, the want of Spices and Palme, which surely must bee so much the more pretious, as the Teares of men are to bee preferr'd before Gums, which are but the weeping of Trees.

12. The Patriarks place was quickly supplied by *Basilins* the Bishop, so often mentioned, preferred to the place by the Emperour. A *Patron* and *Chaplain*-

excellently met; for what one made Law, by his *List*; the other endeavoured to make Gospell, by his *Learning*. In stating of any Controversie, *Basilius* first studied to find out, what *Andronicus* intended or desired to doe therein: and then let him alone to draw that Scripture, which would not come of it selfe, to prove the lawfullnesse of what the other would practice. Thus, in favour of him, he pronounced the legality of two most incestuous matches; and this Grecian *Pope*, gave him a dispensation to free him from all Oathes of Allegiance, which hee had formerly sworn to *Manuel* or *Alexius*: for this was the Humour of *Andronicus*, to have Religion along with him, so farre as it lay in his way, courting the company of pious petence, (if possibly they might be procured) to coun-

countenance his designs: But in case they were so foule, that no glosse of Justice could be put upon them; hee disdained that Pietie which would not befriend him, and impudently acted his pleasure in open opposition of all Religion.

13. But whilst this *Basilus* was thus hot about his secular affaires; there wanted not an aged Hermite, who tooke him to taske, and soundly told him his owne, though it made but small impression in him. Meeting him at advantage; *Hermite*, you know, saith he, hate both *Luxury & complement*. In plain truth, I must chide you, that seeing earth is but your *Inne*, and heaven your *Home*; you mistake the first, for the latter. Mans soule is so intent on its present object, that it is impossible, it should attend two callings at the same time, but must

needs make default in the pursu-
ance of one of them. Your tempo-
rall intermedling drawes the envy
of the Laity, for whose love you
should rather labour. nor are you
stor'd with forraign observations,
really to enable you for such un-
dertakeings. Say not that you may
meddle with temporall State-af-
fares, and yet not intangle your
selfe with them, seeing the world
is such a Witch, it is impossible to
doe the one without the other. Ob-
serve those Clergy-sticklers on the
Civill Stage, and you shall seldome
see them Crowned with a quiet
death. Remember your Predeces-
sor Chrysostome, who did one-
ly Pray and preach, and Read, and
Write thereby made happy in the
despight of his Enemies: For
though twice expell'd his Patri-
arkship, hee was twice restor'd
with greater honour; so that it
was

was not want of Policy, which lost, but store of Piety, which caused him to recover his place againe. Speake I not this out of any repining at the lustre of your preferment, who envy outward Honour no more than the shining of a Glo-worme, but meerly out of love to your person, and desire of your happinesse.

14. But *Basilius*, in some passion returned, *I perceive you are lately broken loose out of your Cell, which makes you more fierce and keen like Hawkes when they are first unhooded, and newly restored to the light. Know, Sir, one may well attend two Callings if they be subordinate, as the meanes and the end. All my secular Businesse is in order to the good of the Church. The love of the Laity unto us, without some awe mingled with it, can neither be long-lasting, or much serviceable.*

able. My Education hath admitted me into generall Learning, and mad me capable of any employment. I deny not the World to be a Witch, but I know how to arme my soule with holy Spells against all her Inchantments. Whereas you say, one cannot meddle with worldly matters, but must intangle himselfe therewith, it is all one, as if you should affirme, that a temperate man cannot eat meate but he must surfet. Proofes from the event, argue not the justice or injustice of the Act; and nothing can be inferred from the ill successe of our meddling in secular affaires. To your instance of Chrysostome, I oppose the example of Augustine Bishop of Hippo, who set in full brightnesse, and yet kept a Court in his owne house, where he umpir'd and decided all temporall controversies. You trampell on that which you call

call pride in me, with that which 1182.
is so in your selfe. And all this
proceeds out of spight, because you
cannot turne your Cowle into a
Mitre.

15. But *Basilus* was deafe to
all these perswasions, and joy-
ning with *Hagio-Christophorites*
Stephanus, (chiefe Enginier for
Andronicus) advanced all cruell
designes. And now *Mamalus* and
Lapardus being executed, all o-
thers were posselt with a Panick
feare: and no wonder when the
string is broken, if the Beads be
scattered. It being feared, that
the Plot miscarryed, they strove
to make themselves innocent, by
first making others guilty. And
yet it was vaine to take the pains
who should start quickest, when
they all met even at the Post:
For *Andronicus* took order that
they were all alike executed.

16. There were two of his
Crea-

Creatures, *Trypsycus*, and *Hagio-Christophorites Stephanus*, who onely fell out, who should be most officious to him. Each had the other in jealousie, fearing his Rivall would engrosse the Emperour unto him. Especially *Stephanus*, was fearefull of *Trypsycus*; understanding that *Andronicus* wrote private Letters unto him, stiling him, his *Beloved friend*, with other expressions, which spake more intimacy than *Stephanus* was willing to heare. This *Trypsycus* had beene a dangerous *Promoter* in all company, Representing to *Andronicus* every sillable spoken against him, to the disadvantage of the speaker, and as one saith, (I conceive rather in the Language of the times, than his owne) *Every man then was to give an account of every idle Word.* It
happe-


happened therefore that one was procured, who accused *TRYPSYCUS* for jeering of *JOHN* the Emperours eldest Sonne for Deformed, and that he scattered some loose expressions, bewailing the misery of the Times. Now, though the great Service which *TRYPSYCUS* had done, might deserve to over-weigh so light an Offence; it cost him his life, Confiscation of his goods, and Ruine of his Posterity.

17. Now hath *STEPHANUS* roome to Domineere alone in the favour of *ANDRONICUS*, sending him to seize on *ISAACIUS*, who for the present was got out of his Covent. It was past the skill of the Spannel to catch him, who dived for the instant, but we shall find him in due time above water, and that to purpose.

THE



The Fift Book.

I. ECURITY is the Mother of danger, and the Grandmother of destruction.

Let ANDRONICVS bee a prooffe hereof, who now, nearest to his ruine, grew most confident, as conceiving he had stop't every cranny, where danger might creep in, and therefore in a bravery, he sent a defiance to Fortune her selfe, which notwithstanding, was returned with his owne speedy overthrow.

2. Yet could he not justly complaine, that he was suddenly surpris'd, seeing Nature might seeme

seeme to have gone out of her way, to give him warning, and *Nemesis* did not hunt him so fast, but that she allow'd him faire *Law* to provide for himselfe, by severall Prodigies which hapned at that time. But *Andronicus*, not onely against the full intent, but almost visible meaning, of the same Accidents, did make a jesting Construction of them, and was deafe to the loud language of all ominous passages, as not relating unto him.

3. Being told of the apparition of a Comet, (no leiger-starre of Heaven, but an extraordinary Embassadour) portending his death, as some expounded it; he scoffingly replyed, that hee was glad to see the heavens so merry, to make Bone-fires, for his Triumphs: And what was a Comet, but the Kitchin-stuffe of the aire, which blazing for
a while

1183. a while, would goe out in a snuffe: Adding, that that Starre might presage the fall of some Prince, that wore long haire, whereas, his was short enough; when another told him of an Earth-quake, which had lately happened, *I am glad*, saith he, *that the Mother-Earth, sicke of the Chollick, had so good a vent for her winde.* Being informed that the Statue of Saint Paul, (his Tutelary Saint) was seene to weep; he evaded the sad presage thereof, by distinguishing on teares, there being an Homonymie in their language, as bearing not onely different, but contrary Senses, proceeding either from Mirth or Mourning; and therefore, that weeping might probably fore-shew good successe In a word, all serious and solemne Omens, he tuned to a jesting meaning, keeping himselfe

selfe constant to his first principle; *That, Fortune, when fear'd, is a Tyrant; when, scorn'd, is a Coward.* But though hee unjustly perverted the sense of these Prodigies; the event did truly interpret them in his destruction.

4. For *Isaacius Angelus* persecuted by the Executioner, fled into the great Church, (in those dayes, the *Sanctuary* at large for Innocents) where, making an Oration to the people, he exceeded Expectation, & himselfe, as if hitherto he had thriftily reserved his worth (a serious, others say, simple man) to spend it more freely when occasion required it. He spake not like those mercenary people, which make their tongue, their *ware*, and Eloquence, their *Trade*; but he uttered himselfe so pathetically, that he did not court At-
tenti-

tention, but command it. Hee made both his innocence, and the cruelty of *Andronicus*, to appeare so plaine, that the people not onely afforded him, protection for the present; but also, bestowed on him Sovereignty for the future, and instantly elected, and proclaimed him, Emperour of Greece.

5. Stand wee here still, and wonder what should be the Reason, that *Andronicus* should suffer this *Isaacus*, next Prince of the bloud, so long safely to survive, who had cutt off other Persons of lesse danger, & lower degree. Wee cannot ascribe it to his incogitancy, as inconsistent with his vast memory, to forget a matter of such importance; lesse can we impute it to his pitty, as if sparing him out of compassion: seeing that a Thred might
 soo-

sooner hope to be prolonged under the knife of *Atropos*, than any to finde favour under his impartiall crueltie. Was it not then because he had him in his power? and counting himselfe sure to seize on him at pleasure; reserved him, as *Sweet-meat*, to close his stomack, when first hee had fed on severall Disbes of courser Diet : Or, because hee slighted him, as a narrow-hearted man, religiously bred in a Covent, unfit for a Campe, the object rather of his contempt, than feare; for that his hands might seemetied with his Beads, from being dangerously active, in the State. But, let us remove our wondring at this neglect of *Andronicus*, to make roome for our admiration of divine Providence, who confounded this Politician in his owne cunning. Thus the most expert Gamsters may sometimes over-see; and,

Traitors, though they be carefull to cut downe all Trees, which hinder their ambitious Prospect; wil unawares leave one still standing, whereof their owne Gallowes may be made.

6. Immediately all the Prisons in the City were set open, and those petty sinks of dissolute people emptied themselves into a common Sewer, and became into a tumultuous Torrent. Headlong they haste to the Pallace of *Andronicus*, where, not finding him at home, they wreckt their spight upon that beautifull building, and sumptuous furniture therein. Should I insift upon particulars, all sorts of Readers would be fadded therewith. Ladies would lament the losse of so many Pearles and precious stones, whose very Cases were Jewells. *Souldiers* be-moane the spoyling of so magnificent an Armorie. But *Scholars*

lers would be most passionate, to bewaile the want of that Librarie so full fraught with rarities, that nothing abated the Pretiousnesse, but the Plenty of them. Many records, (the Staires whereby *Antiquaries* climbe up into the knowledge of former times) were torne in pieces, though wee need not believe them so old, as that some of them had escaped *Noah's* floud, & were now drowned in a popular Deluge.

7. Nothing was preserved whole and entire. Whether, because they pretended some Religion in Revenge, as not aiming, out of Covetousnesse, to enrich themselves, but out of Justice, to punish the Tyrant; or because they thought the very *Goods* of *Andronicus*, were become *evill*, guilty of their owners faults, and therefore were

all to be abolished as execrable :
yea, as if the very Chappel it self,
which he had built, had been
un-hallowed, by the Prophane-
nesse of the Founder; with the
Utenfils thereof, it was defa-
ced. A stately Structure it was,
ANDRONICUS not be-
ing of their opinion, who concei-
ving an holy horreur to live in
darke and humble Cells, fancie
not Triumphant Churches, for
feare that their Hearts bee there
lost in their Eyes. But he profes-
sed his Devotion to rise with the
rooſe of the Church; so that his
soule seemed to anticipate hea-
ven, by beholding the Earnest
thereof in a beautifull Temple.
However, now his Chapple was
layd flat to the ground; and, a-
mongst other things therein, of
ineſtimable value, the Letter,
which, by tradition, was reported
to be written by Christs owne
hands,

hands, to *Abgarus* King of *Edeffa*, then was embezeled, So irresistable is the Tyranny of a Tumult; and therefore, it may be all good mens Prayers, that the People may either never understand their own power, or alwayes use it a-right.

8. *Andronicus*, as we said before had secretly conveyed himselfe away. Who would not have thought, but that this great Fencer should have been provided of variety of Guard's, against all the crosse blowes of Fortune; at least, to have had some impregnable place, neare hand, to retire unto? Whereas hee had no other Policy to escape, than that poor shift, which the silly simple *Hare* useth against the Hounds, by flying before them. Indeed had the Conspiracy against *Andronicus*, been but locall, or partiall, so that hee had any sound part

to begin on, he would probably have made resistance, (as *Physicians* must have some strength of Nature in their Patient, to practice on,) but the defection from him was so generall and universall, hee found not any effectuall friend left him. Onely hee had scrap't together a masse of Coyne, more trusting in money, than men, hoping, in forraigne parts, to buy some friends therewith; knowing that Gold, if weight, is currant in all Countries. Then taking *Anna* his Emperresse, and *Maraptica* his whore, with some few servants, he durst confide in, and the Treasure hee had formerly provided, he made speede, in a Pinnace, through the black Sea, to the *Tauro-Scythians*, out of the bounds of his Empire, hoping there to live in quiet. And because we have mentioned *Anna* the Emperresse, wee can-

cannot passe herby in silence. For if one would draw a map of miserie, to paire like yeares, with like mis-hap, 'tis hard to finde a fitter Patterne.

9. Daughter shee was to the King of *France*, being married a childe (having little list to love; and lesse, to aspire) to the young Emperour *Alexius*, whilst both their yeares, put together, could not spell Thirty. After this, shee had time too much, to bemoane, but none at al, to amend, her condition, being slighted and neglected by her husband. Oft-times being alone (as sorrow loves no witnesse) having roome, and leisure to bewaile her selfe, shee would relate the Chronicle of her unhappinesse, to the Walls, as hoping to finde pitie, from stones, when men prov'd unkind unto her. Much did shee envie the felicity of those Milk-maids,

which each morning passe over the Virgin-dew, and Pearled-grasse, sweetly singing by day, and soundly sleeping at night, who had the priviledge freely to bestow their affections, and wed them, which were high in love, though low in condition: whereas, Royall Birth had denyed her that happinesse, having neither liberty to chuse, nor leave to refuse; being compell'd to love, and sacrificed to the Politique ends of her potent Parents.

10. But *Anna*, unhappy at her first Voyage, hoped to better her Condition by a second Adventure; yet made more hast than good speed, marrying *Andronicus* some weekes after the death of *Alexius*. Surely there is an *Annus luctus*, A year of mourning, which the modesty of widowes may do well to observe, least neglecting it in their widdowhood,

hood, it be required of them af- 1183.
terwards, with Interest, in the ill

ſucceſſe of their ſecond marriage. For, *Maraptica*, a proud Harlot, but excellent Muſician, juſtled with *Anna* in the Emperours affection : (and halfe an old Husband was too much for a young Lady to ſpare) and in proceſſe of time, prevailed to obtaine violent poſſeſſion. The Empreſſe, knowing her ſelf honeſt, and amiable, ſtood on her Deſerts; not deſcending to beg that love, which ſhe conceived due unto her, but daring him to detaine it at his owne perill, ſeeing hee wronged himſelfe in wronging of her, forfeiting his Troth, which he had publikely pledged unto her. But, the Curtizan, knowing that that love needs Buttrefſes in Cunning, which hath no foundation in Conſcience; appiyed her ſelfe in
all

all particulars to bee complizant to the desires of *Andronicus*. This *Maraptica*, though shee had faire fine fingers to play on the Lute, had otherwise foule great Clutches, to snatch, graspe, and hold, whatsoever shee could come by. And knowing that shee had but a *short Terme in the Tenement* of her greatnesse, (subject both to the mortality and mutabilitie of *Andronicus*) and withall, that she was not bound to reparations, therefore cared not *what wiste she made*; but, by wrong and rapine scraped together a masse of mony. Meane time, *Anna* was kept poore enough; who, whilst Maid, Widow, and Wife, (twice a Bride, before once a Woman) scarce saw a joyfull day; though borne of a King, and wedded to two Emperours,

II. But to returne to *Andronicus*

nicus, who pursued after by his guiltie conscience, found no rest in himselfe; so that for many nights, sleep was a stranger unto him. Hee that had put out other mens eyes, could not close his owne; and when Nature in him starv'd, for want of rest, did at last hungerly snatch at short slumbers. Dreames did more terrifie, than sleep refresh him. His active fancy in the night did descant on what he had done before. Sometimes, the pale Ghost of *Alexius* seemed with glowing Pincers to torment him, otherwhile *Maria Cesarissa* sticht hot burning Needles through his side; and, not long after, two streames of reeking bloud seemed to flow out of the eyes of *Lapardas*, wherein *Andronicus* for a while seemed to swimme, till, beginning to sinke, to save himselfe, he caught hold on his
Pillow,

Pillow, and so did awake.

12. When awaked, his minde was musing upon a Propheſie, which ſome dayes ſince was delivered unto him : For hee had employed an Agent, unto one *Seth*, an old Conjuror, to know of him what ſhould be the name of his next ſucceſſour in the Empire. Now, firſt a great *S.* was preſented in a Baſon of water; and next that, an *I.* but both ſo doubtfully delineated, that they were hardly legible: done on purpoſe for ſeverall Reaſons. Becauſe it ſtood not with the State of the *Prince of Darkneſſe*, to be over-cleare in his Acts; and thoſe that vent bad Wares love to keep blind ſhops: Beſides, obſcurity added veneration to his Oracle, & active Superſtitious Fancies, whet with the difficulty of them, would be ſharpe-ſighted to read more then
was

was written, But the maine was to save his owne credit, takeing covert of Mysticall Expressions, that in case Satan should faile in his Answers, hee might lay the blame on mens understanding him.

13. Put then these two Letters together, *S.I.* and read them backwards *I.S.* by an *Hysterosis*, & take a part of the whole by a *Synecdoche*; (all favourable Figures must bee used, to piece out the Devills short skill in future Contingents) and then *Andronicus* was told by the Conjuror, hee had the name of his Successor. Aske mee not why *Hells Alphabet* must be read backward, let Satan give an account of his owne Couz'nage: whether out of an apish imitation of the Hebrew, which is read retrograde, or, because that ugly filthy Serpent, crawles *Cancer-like*,
or

1183. or to make his Answers the more
Ænigmaticall, for the reasons a-
fore-said. *Andronicus* by this I.
S. understood *I Saurus Comme-
nus*, who lately, by Usurpation,
had set up a Kingdome in the Isle
of *Cyprus*, and therefore alwayes
observed him with a jealous eye,
and now too late perceives his
errour, and findes the Prophecie
performed in *Isaacijs Angelus*.

14. Thus, those that are cor-
respondents with the Devill, for
such intelligence, have need
when they have receiv'd the
text of his Answers, to borrow
his Comment too, lest otherwise
they mistake his meaning. And,
men may justly take heed of Cu-
riosity, to know things to come;
which is one of the kernells of
the *forbidden Fruite*, and even
in our Age sticks still in the
throats of too many, even to the
danger of choaking them, if
it

it bee not warily prevented.

1183.

15. Hitherto, what disasters had happened to *Andronicus* might partly be imputed to men, and second causes: Whereas now, divine justice, to have its power praised in its punishments, seemed visibly to put out a hand from heaven; & he wants eyes, that cannot, or shuts them, that will not, behold it. See now the Gally, wherein he sayled, haveing all the Canvas thereof, employed with a prosperous Winde, when suddenly it was checkt in the full speed, and beaten back with fowle weather into a small Harbour, called *Cbele*. Soon after the windes serving againe, hee set forth the second time, and had not made many leagues, when *Neptune* with his Trident thrust him back againe; such was the violence of the Seas

Seas against him. A third time he set forth with a faire Gale, when instantly, the winde changing forced him to returne. Here, what tugging, what Towing, what Rowing! no thing was omitted, which Art, or Industrie, Skill or Will, could performe : *Andronicus*, dropping a shower of Gold to the Saylers, to reward the Sweat that fell from them. All in vaine; For as, indeed, hee had offended the *Fire*, with the Innocents hee burnt therein : angred the *Aire*, with hundreds of Carkasses, which therein he had caused to be can-
ged : provoked the *Earth*, by burying men alive in her Bosome So, most of all he had enraged the *Water* against him, (now mindfull of his Injuries) by him made a Charnell-house,

house, and generall Grave, into which, the body of the young Emperour ALEXIUS was cast, with thousands of his Subjects. God, herein to prevent all mis-constructions of Casualty (which otherwise men might fasten upon it,) and knowing that men are slow in their *Apprehensions*, and dull in their Memory to learne the Lessons of his Justice, he re-iterated and repeated it three severall times, that the most blockish Scholler, might learne it perfectly by heart: *This is the worke of the Lord, and it may justly seeme marvellous in our eyes.* Thus ANDRONICUS was, the third time, sent backe to the place from whence hee came, and so to the place of Execution. For hee was no sooner come to the shore, but

An. Dom.


Andronicus, or

1183. Servants, employed by ISAACIUS, (who had way-laid all the Ports on the Blacke Sea) stood ready to Arrest him.

The



The Sixt Book.

I.  ANDRONICUS ha- *An. Dom.*
ving now left 1183.

him neither Army to fight, or legges to flye; (being in the possession of his Enemies) betook himselfe to his Tongue, be-moaning his Case, and with Teares begging their favour. But those Eyes, which, weeping in jest, had mock'd others so often, could not now bee trusted, that they were in earnest. The storme at Land was more implacable then the tempest at Sea. Two heavy Iron Chaines were

put about his neck, (in Mettle and weight, different from them he wore before) and loaden with Fetters and Insolencies from the Souldiers, (who, in such Ware, seldome give scant measure) he was brought into the presencc of *Isaacius*. Here the most mercifull and moderate contented themselves with Tongue-revenge, calling him Dogge of uncleannesse, Goat of Lust, Tygre of Cruelty, Religions Ape, and Envies Basilisk. But, others pull'd him by the Beard, twitch't the haire left by Age on his head, and proceeding from depriving him of Ornamentall Excrements, dash't out his teeth, put out one of his eyes, cut of his right hand; and thus maimed, without Surgeon to dresse him, man to serve him, or meat to feed him, he was sent to the publike Prison amongst

mongst Theeves and Robbers.

2. All these were but the beginning of evill unto him. Some dayes after, with a shaved head crowned with Garlick, he was set on a scab'd Cammell, with his face backwards, holding the Taile thereof for a Bridle, and was led cleane through the City. All the Cruelties which he in two yeares and upwards, had committed upon severall persons, were now abbreviated and Epitomised on him, in as large a Character, as the shortnesse of the time would give leave, & the subject it selfe was capable of: they burnt him with Torches and Fire-brands, tortur'd him with Pincers, threw abundance of dirt upon him; and withall, such filthinesse, that the Reader woule stop his Nose, if I should tell him the composition thereof; it is enough to say, that the

worst thing that comes from Man, was the best in the mixture thereof.

3. Such as consult with their Credit will bee cautious how they report *improbable Truthes*, fearing they will not be received for Truths, but rejected for improbable. Especially in this Age, wherein men resume their Libertie, conceiving it against the *Priviledge* of their judgments, to have their Beliefe, (which should be a Voluntary) prest by the authority of others, to give credit to what beares not Proportion with Likely-hood. Could an old man (such as *Andronicus* was) passe the age of man, three-score and ten, who now only lived *by the courtesie of Death* to spare him, endure such paine, three miles, through so populous a City? The Poets onely feigned *Atlas* to be weary of carrying

rying of Heaven; but, must not our *Andronicus* be either stifled for want of breath, or back-broken with store of weight, under so much earth throwne upon him? And was it possible, that Hee, who, before these times, had one foot in the grave, should have the other not follow after, when driven with such crueltie?

4. To render this likely, we may consider; first, that it was the intent of the People, not to kill, but to torment him. Secondly, when one Dish is to go clean through a Table of Guests, men are mannerly; all, take some, though none, enough. Besides, he was one of a strong Constitution, whose Brawny flesh Nature had knit together with Horny Nerves. And yet, had hee been a weak man; a Candle with glimmering light will burne long in a Socket, being thrifty of it selfe.

† Revel. 9.
verse. 6.

Life was sweet to *Andronicus*, under all those noisome smells; and he would not part with it, whilst he could keep it. But what was the maine, it was possible God might support his life, either out of Justice, or mercie. (And, wee read in * Scripture, of Men, that they shall desire to dye, and death shall flee from them.) I say not of Justice, visibly to acquit himsele, in the eyes of the world, by makeing such a Monster, the open Marke for Mans Revenge; or out of mercy, giving him a long and large time of Repentance, if hee had the happinesse to make use thereof.

5. Behold here a strange Conflict, betwixt the Crueltie of the People on the one side, & the patience of *Andronicus* on the other; and yet an indifferent Umpire would adjudge the Victory to

to the latter: No raging, no Raving, no Muttering, no Repining; but swallowed all in silence. Onely he cryed out, *Lord have mercy upon me: And, Why breake yee a bruised Reed!* and sensible of his owne guiltinesse, hee seemed contented to passe his Purgatory here, that so hee might escape Hell hereafter.

6. After multitudes of other Cruelties, tedious to us to rehearse, (and how painfull then to him to endure!) hee was hanged by the Heeles betwixt two Pillars: In this posture, Hee put the stump of his right Arme, whose wound bled a fresh, to his mouth, so to quench (as some suppose) the extremity of his thirst, with his owne Bloud, having no other moysture allowed him. When one ranne a Sword thorough his Back and Belly, so that his very Entralls were seen,
and

and seemed to call (though in vaine) on the Bowells of the Spectators; to have some compassion upon him. At last, with much a-doe, his soul (which had so many doores opened for it) found a passage out of his body, into another world.

*Drexelius upon eternity, 5. Consideration p. 147

7. Heare, how one of great * Learning, is charitably opinioned of his finall Estate, making this Apostrophe to his Ghost :
Oh, ANDRONICUS ! Oh thou Emperour of the East ! how much wast thou bound unto God, whose will it was, that for a few dayes thou shouldst suffer such things, that thou mightest not perish for ever ! Thou wast miserable for a short time, that thou mightest not bee miserable for all eternity. I make no doubt, but thou hadst the yeares of Eternity in mind, seeing that thou didst suffer such things so constantly, and conragiously.

8. But

8. But doth not so strong
Charity Argue a weak judge-
ment? Despaire it selfe may pre-
sume of salvation, if such an one
was saved. How improperly did
he usurpe that Expression, com-
paring himselfe to a * *Bruised* * *Matt. 12.*
Reed, when, another Scripture- *v. 20.*
resemblance was more applyable
unto him, of a * *Bul-rush bowing* * *Isai. 58.*
downe his head; onely top-heavy *v. 6.*
for the present, with sense of
suffering, not inwardly contrited
in heart, for the sinnes hee had
committed. Must not true Re-
pentance have a longer season to
ripen it, and by workes ensuing,
to avouch to the world the sincer-
ity thereof? Insomuch that, of
late, some affirme that the good
Theefe on the Crosse did not
then first begin, but first renew
his repentance, latlely interrup-
ted by a felonious Act. Allow
Andronicus for a Saint; and we
shall

shall people Heaven with a new Plantation of Whores and Theeves, & how voluminous will the *Booke of Martyrs* be, if Paine alone does make them !

9. On the other side, we must be wary, how, in our Censures, wee shut Heaven-doore against any Penitents. Farre be it from us to distrust the power of Gods mercy, or to deny the efficacie of true (though late) Repentance : the last groan which divorces the Soule from the body, may unite it to God : though the Arme of his body was cut off, the Hand of his faith might hold. All that I will adde is this, if *Andronicus* his soule went to Heaven, it is pittie that any should know of it, lest they bee encouraged to imitate the wicked Premises of his life, hoping by his Example to obtaine the same happy Conclusion after death.

10. After his execution, the tide of the Peoples fury did turne, who began to love his memory, and lament his Losse: Such as before were blinded with prejudice against him, could now clearly see many good deeds he had done, for the Publike, and began to recount with themselves, many Soveraigne Lawes, which hee had enacted: some bemoaned the misery which he had endured, as if his punishment was over-proportion'd to his deserts. Whether this pitie proceeded out of that generall humour of men, never to value things till they are lost; or, because their revenge had formerly surfeted upon him, & now began to disgorge it selfe againe; Or, which is most probable, this Compassion arose from the mutabliety and inconstancy of humane Nature, which hates alwayes to be imprisoned

soned in one and the same minde; but being in constant Motion through the *Zodiac* of all Passions, will not stay long in the same *Signe*, and sometimes goes from one *Extremity* to another.

11. By this time *Isaacius* was brought by *Basilus* the Patriarch unto the Throne, & placed thereon with all solemnity: then the Crowne was put upon his head, on the top whereof was a Diamond-Crosse, (greatnesse and care are twins) which *Isaacius* kissed: *I welcome thee*, said he, *though not as a stranger, who have been acquainted with Crosses from my Cradle: Thou art both my Sword and my Shield; for hitherto I have conquered with suffering.* Then weighing the Crowne in his hand; it is (saith he) a beautifull burthen, which loads, more than it adornes.

12. Heere *Basilus* the Patri- 1183.

arke made a Sermon-like Orati-
on unto him, which, as it was
uttered with much gravity, so
it was heard with no lesse Atten-
tion, and embraced by the Em-
perour with great thankfulness.
Not presuming, Sir, to teach you
what you doe not know, I am in-
cited by my Calling, and encour-
aged by your Clemency, to put you
in minde, of what otherwise you
may forget. This Crowne and
Scepter were sent you from Hea-
ven; onely we have done our duty
in delivering them unto you. And
now me thinkes, that Divine Ma-
jesty perfectly shines in You his I-
mage. These our eyes upheld, &
folded hands, and bared heads, &
bended knees are due from us to
God, and wee pay them to him,
by paying them to you his Recei-
ver. And wee doubt not, but you
will improve the Power and Ho-
nour

1183. nour bestowed on you, for the protection of the people committed unto you.

13. In a mans body, whilst naturall Heat and radicall Moisture observe their limits; all is preserved in health: if either exceeds their bounds, the body either drownes, or burnes. It fareth thus in the Constitution of the State, betwixt your Power, and our Prosperity; whilst both agree, they support one another: but, if they fall out, about Masterie, even that which over-comes, will be destroyed in a generall confusion. And if you should betray your Trust, though we bow, and beare, and sigh, and sob, armed with Prayers and Teares; yet know, that our sad Mournings will mount into that Court, where lye the Appeales of Subjects, and the Censures of Soveraignes, which will heavily be inflicted by him, whom
you

you represent. Speake I not this, out of any distrust of your Justice, but out of earnest desire of your happinesse, wishing, that the greatnesse of Constantine, founder of this place, the goodnesse of Jovian, the successe of Honorius, the long life of Valens, the quiet death of Manuel, the immortall fame of Justinian, and whatsoever good was singl'd on them, may joyntly be heaped upon you, and your Posterity.

14. Hereupon followed such a shout of the people, as the oldest man present had not heard the like; and all interpreted it as a token presaging the future felicity of the new Emperour. And thus we have presented the Reader, with the remarkeable intricacie and perplexity of successe (as if Fortune were like to loose her selfe in a Labyrinth of her owne making,) winding

L

back-

1183 backward and forward, within the compasse of five yeares, with more strange varieties then can easily bee pararell'd in so short a continuance of time.

1. First, *Alexius*; no *Andronicus*.

2. Then, *Alexius*; and *Andronicus*.

3. Then, *Andronicus*; and *Alexius*.

4. Then, *Andronicus*; no *Alexius*.

5. Then, *Isaacus*; no *Andronicus*.

Thus, few strings curiously plaid upon by the cunning fingers of a skilfull Artist may make much Musick; and Divine Providence made here a miraculous harmony by these odd expected

pected transpositions, tuncing all
to his owne glory.

15. Here I intended to end
our History, save that I cannot
discharge my Trust, and bee
faithfull to the Truth, without
taking some speciall observati-
on of *Basilus*. Wee cannot for-
get how Active an Instrument
hee had been to serve the cru-
elty of *Andronicus*: and when
first I looked wishly upon his
hand (so busied in wicked em-
ployments) I presently read
his Fortune, that hee should
come to a violent death. The

old * Hermtte seemed to mee a
Prophet, to confirme me in my
opinion, (when reprovng him
for stickling in temporall mat-
ters (and my conjectures grew
confident, that this Patriarke
in processe of time, would ei-
ther shake of Mitre from his

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head, or his head from his shoulders. And, perchance, if the ingenuons Reader would be pleased freely to confess his thoughts therein, hee was posselt with the same expectation.

16. How wide were we from the marke? how blind is Man in future Contingents? How wise is God, in crossing our conceits, leaving the world amused with his wayes; that men finding themselves at a losse, may learne more to adore, what they cannot understand! See *Basilus*, as brave, and as bright as ever; and whilst all his Fellow-servants had their wages paid them by *Andronicus*, (some made longer in their Necks, others shorter by their Heads) He alone survives in Health and Honour: which made most to admire, what peculiar Antidote
of

of Sovereigne vertue hee had gotten, to preserve himselfe from the infectious fury of that Tyrant.

17. But that which advanceth this wonder into the Marks of a Miracle, is, that this cunning Pilot, should so quickly *tacke about*, when the winde changed, and ingratiate Himselfe with *Isaacius*. When times suddenly turned from Extremes; those persons which formerly were first in favour, are cast farthest behinde, and they must be very active and industrious to recover themselves. But *Basilius* by a strange Dexterity, was instantly in the front of Favourites, and, without any abatement, carryed it in as high a straine as ever before; and, although (being weary already) I am loath to

travell further into the Reigne of this new Emperour, to see in the sequell thereof what became of *Basilius* at last; yet, so farre as I can from the best chosen Advantage discern and discover his successe; no signall Punishment, above the ordinary Standard of Casualities, did befall Him; and, for ought appears to the contrary, hee dyed in his bed.

18. Of such as seriously consider this Accident, some perchance may be so well stockt with Charity, as to conceive, that hee repented of his former Inpiety, and, thereupon was pardoned by Heaven, and came to a peaceable end. Others may conceive, that as, when a whole Forrest of Trees is felled, some aged, eminent, Oake, by the high-ways side, may

may bee suffered to survive, as uselesse for Timber, because decayed; yet, usefull for a Land-marke, for the direction of Travellers; so *Basilins* being now aged, and past dangerous Activity, was preserved for the Information of Posterity, and (when all others were cut downe by cruell deaths,) he left alone to instruct the ensuing age of the Tragical passage which had happened in his Remembrance. But the most solid, and judicious will expresse themselves in the language of the * Apostle, *Some mens sinnes are open before-hand,* * 1. Tim. 5. 24. *going before to judgement, and some mens follow after.* All notorious offenders are nor publickly branded in the World with an infamous Character of shame or paine: but some carrie their sinnes concealed, and re-

1183. ceive the reward for them in another world.

19. It onely remaineth, that wee now give the personall description of *Andronicus*, so farre forth as it may be collected from the few extant Authors which have written thereof.

His

The Unfortunate Politician.



I.

His Stature.

HEE was higher then the ordinary sort of Men. He was seven full feet in length (if there be no mistake in the difference of the measure.) And whereas, often the Cock-loft is empty, in those which nature hath built many stories high ; his head was sufficiently stored with all Abilities.

II.

His Temper.

OF a most healthfull Constitution; of a lively Colour, and vigorous Limbes, so
that

Andronicus, or

that he was used to say, that he could endure the violence of any Disease for a Twelve-month together by his sole naturall strength, without being beholding to Art, or any assistance of Physick.

III.

His Learning.

HEE had a quicke Apprehension, and solid judgement, and was able on any emergent, occasion, to speake rationally on any Controversie in Divinity. Hee would not abide to heare any Fundamentall Point of Religion brought into question; insomuch, that when once two Bishops began to contend about the meaning of that noted place, *My Father is greater than I am*, Andronicus suspecting that they would fall

The Vnfortunate Polititian.

fall foule upon the *Arrian* Heresie, vowed to throw them both into the River, except they would bee quiet, A way to quench the hottest Disputation, by an in-artificiall Answer, drawne from such Authority.

IIII.

His Wives.

FIRST, *Theodora Comnenia*, Daughter of *Isaacus* *Sebasto Crator*, his nearest kinswoman; so that the Marriage was most incestuous.

The second, *Anna*, Daughter to the King of *France*: of whom, largely before.

Andronicus, or

V.

*His lawfull Issue, both by
his first Wife.*

IOH^N COM^NENIUS his
eldest sonne. It seemes hee
was much deformed, and his
Soule, as cruell, as his body,
ugly. He assisted *Hagio Christo-
phorita-Stephanus* in the stifling
of *Xene*.

Manuel, his second sonne, of
a most vertuous disposition. Let
those, that undertake the ensu-
ing History, shew how both
had their eyes bored out by *I-
saacius*.

VI.

His Naturall Issue.

I Meet with none of their
names, and though he lived
wantonly with many Harlots,
and

The Unfortunate Politician.

and Concubines : yet (what a Father observeth) *πολυγαμία πικρὰ ἀνδρῶν* *Many Wives make few children.* And it may be imputed to the providence of Nature, that Monsters (such as *Andronicus*) in this particular, are happy that they are Barren.

VII.

His Buriall.

BY publike Edict it was prohibited that any should bury his body; however, some were found, who bestowed, though not a solemne *grave*, yet an obscure *hole* upon him, not out of pitty to him, but out of love to themselves; except any will say, that his Corps, by extraordinary stinch, provided its owne buriall, to avoyd a generall annoyance.

FINIS.